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CONSERVATIVE AM TO OPPOSE COURT PLAN
PAGE 3

EXCELLENT GCSE RESULTS FOR YOUNG STUDENTS ACROSS COUNTY BOROUGH

Porthcawl Comprehensive School were among many schools celebrating excellent GCSE results last Thursday. See a full round-up of results from schools in this week's GEM.

Father hit his own son with dumb-bell at birthday party

VIOLENCE erupted at a birthday party in Brackla during which a father attacked his own son who had been "scared for his life", writes AJ SICLUNA.

The victim, Joshua Lewis, was struck with a dumbbell weight and threatened with a baseball bat and a knife, said prosecutor Nicholas Gedge at Cardiff Crown Court.

Gordan Lewis (51) of Gwaun Coed, admitted a charge of affray and two of common assault. He was sentenced to 16 months imprisonment, suspended for two years and made subject to a supervision order for one year.

He was also directed to observe a four-month curfew from 8pm to 6am, which will be electronically tagged.

In addition, he was made subject to an indefinite restraining order banning him from contacting his son and from going to the village in Oxfordshire where the son lives with his family.

Mr Gedge said a party was held at the defendant's home to celebrate his wife's birthday. A man became ill and was sick. Following that, violence took place and Lewis attacked his son and two others.

Joshua Lewis suffered a cut to his shoulder and cuts to a lower arm and right ear.

He said his father had suddenly been "macho" after which matters escalated. When arrested, the defendant initially refused to answer questions, but later denied the offences and said that he had been the victim.

In a victim impact statement, his son said he had been scared for his life and could not imagine a father chasing his son with a knife.

Because of stress, he said he could not sleep and has described the defendant as "normally a loving father and grandfather".

He said that because of what occurred, he sometimes hit rock bottom and didn't want any more contact with his father.

His wife said the incident had made her shocked and scared and she too had feared for her husband's life.

Judge Tom Crowther said the incident was "shameful".

Kevin Seal, representing Lewis, said he was far from robust; he had many health problems. Mr Seal said that at times, Lewis feels he was the victim but by his guilty pleas, accepts his wrongdoing.

All concerned, he said, had had far too much alcohol. Currently, the parties are not reconciled.

Mr Seal said medication sometimes controlled the defendant's pain and he had recently been medically examined and awarded the higher rate of benefits because of his problems.

The judge said, passing sentence, that it "defied belief" that a father would behave in the way that he did.

AM WELCOMES £7m JOBS SCHEME FOR THE YOUNG

BRIDGEND AM and First Minister Carwyn Jones, has welcomed a new £7 million project to tackle unemployment among over 25-year-olds in the south Wales valleys.

The Bridges into Work 2 project, which will be led by Torfaen Council and backed by £5.4 million of EU funds, will support out-of-work people in Bridgend, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil and Torfaen.

Mr Jones said: "By offering a range of support – from help with job searches and with IT skills through to CV writing and interview training – the Bridges into Work scheme will give people an opportunity to develop new skills which will give them confidence to re-enter the job market".

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Who wants to build what, and where?

Mercedes Benz (UK Ltd) – **Mercedes House, Ffordd Yr Hen Gae, Pencoed** – New signage for the car dealership.

Mr M Evans – **6 Primrose Close, Brackla** – Fell oak tree.

Ground Control Ltd – **Heol Ty Maen, Cefn Glas** – Program of works to several trees including crown lift, coppice, removal, prune back overhanging branches.

Mr D Lewis – **Rear of new bungalow, Station Road, Kenfig Hill** – New detached dormer style bungalow.

Mr J Ricketts – **Hall Cottage, Ty Fry Road, Cefn Cribbwr** – Single and two storey extensions to side and rear.

Mr Andrew Derricott – **20 Ton Tylluan, Broadlands, Bridgend** – Conversion of an existing garage and a first floor bedroom extension.

Welcome Break Group Ltd – **Sarn Park, motorway services area, Sarn** – Non-material amendments to consent P/14/313/FUL.

Neath Port Talbot CBC – **Mynydd Gelli near Abergwynfi, Port Talbot** – Vary conditions 2 and 30 and agree details for condition 20 of NPT consent P2010/1148.

BCBC Property Dept – **Aber Infants School, FernStreet, Ogmore Vale** – Prior notification for demolition of school buildings.

Valleys to Coast Housing – **18 Lakeview Close, Porthcawl** – Non-material amendment to P/15/237/FUL – change to proposed entrance with new canopy and materials.

Mr Christopher Jones – **Ground floor 19 Queen Street, Maesteg** – Retention of use of ground floor as a children's play facility with an ancillary coffee shop.

Mr C Rayner – **37 Blaengarw Road, Blaengarw** – First floor extension to create a larger bedroom.

Mr H Currie – **21 Caer Berllan, Pencoed** – Change of use of detached garage into two bedroom bungalow.

Vivard Ltd – **Land to rear 26 – 27 Clos Pen Llwyn, Broadlands, Bridgend** – Construction of new detached dwelling.

Mr G Morgan – **15 Fairfield Road, Bridgend** – Single storey extension to provide dining area, utility room and shower room and single garage.

Trimmager Ltd – **19 Heronstone Park, Heronstone Lane, Bridgend** – Erection of UPVC conservatory.

Mr and Mrs M Murray – **1 The Precinct, Rest Bay, Porthcawl** – Change of use from A1 (shop) to A3 (food and drink).

Mr John Morgan – **Crossways House, 97/99 High Street, Laleston** – Garden equipment storage building.

'Watch out for this fake Postcode Lottery scam'

BRIDGEND County Borough Council's Trading Standards service is warning residents about a scam which involves letters being sent out to residents to try and dupe them into thinking they have won a cash prize on the People's Postcode Lottery.

A local resident became suspicious after receiving one of these letters because they hadn't registered for the People's Postcode Lottery.

Alarm bells were also set ringing as the company address was listed as being in Belgium and the letter also mentioned the winner needing to pay a fee to the company after receiving the prize money.

The resident complained to Trading Standards officers who made further investigations and found that the numbers given to call were either dead lines or terminating after ringing through, and it was confirmed that the letter sent was not from the genuine People's Postcode Lottery.

A spokesperson for the People's Postcode lottery said: "People's Postcode Lottery takes such matters very seriously. If you receive one of these letters, phone calls, SMS messages or emails, then we strongly advise the public to treat these communications as scams and they should be ignored.

"Legitimate lotteries, such as People's Postcode Lottery, will not under any circumstances request a payment in order to receive your 'winnings'. If you are at all suspicious, then contact our customer service team on 0808 109 8765."

Princess of Wales staff were 'brilliant'

IN reply to criticism of the Princess of Wales Hospital, I would like to say I have been a patient there for the last four weeks, having life saving surgery.

Without their expertise, care and attention, I would not be here today – they were brilliant.

Many thanks for what they did for me.

Elizabeth Joyce Bruten,
Llantwit Major.

'Tell us your stories of NHS services'

I AM writing, on behalf of Cardiff and Vale Community Health Council, the independent NHS Patient Watchdog, to ask members of the public and patients who access health services in Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan for stories detailing their experiences of using local NHS services.

The stories will provide a valuable insight into the quality of the health care they have received and their opinion of services provided.

The stories are not just a sequence of events but include – the emotional effect of the experience and the storyteller's expectations and needs.

The story can relate to any part of the NHS from primary care, ambulance services, including patient transport and emergency, outpatient and clinic appointments and hospital services.

It is important that the health service, which is undergoing major changes at present, does not lose the ability to hear the voices of local people. The CHC will be able to use the stories to target their monitoring activity of local NHS services and highlight any improvements that need to be made.

Stories can be sent in via post to our address above, or via email: Cavog.chiefofficer@waleschc.org.uk.

Stephen Allen, Chief Officer.

Activity cuts child obesity in the county

THE latest report from the National Child Measurement Programme for Wales has revealed that Bridgend County Borough has seen the highest percentage reduction in obese or overweight children aged four to five years old over the past two years, a council spokesperson claimed.

BCBC said it is working with partners to support local people to develop healthy and active lifestyles, with the Family Activity Zone (FAZ) programme among the initiatives that are playing an important part in this success.

"As well as providing physical activity and play opportunities, the programme aims to help children develop more confidence, resilience, creativity and determination, making them positive role models both within school and in the wider community.

"It also works with families and encourages them to spend quality time together to eat healthier and to be more active," the spokesperson explained.

"The Family Active Zone programme recognises that if we want to support people to be more healthy and more active then we should focus on whole households where people can support each other and have fun doing it."

To find out more about the FAZ programme email aypd@bridgend.gov.uk or call 01656 815218, or speak to the relevant school if you want to know if they will be participating in the FAZ programme in the next academic year.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER.

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient!
We will (*in certain circumstances*)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Can anyone help provide a piece of Porthcawl history?

CAN anyone remember when the dual carriageway into Porthcawl and the new road to John Street subway was opened?

The subway replaced the Station Hill gates that allowed the road to cross the railway, and many frustrated drivers will remember the summer chaos caused when the gates closed to allow trains packed with holiday makers to arrive.

Some time between1970-1975 seems the most popular guess, but I have asked all the departments where such information would normally be available but the mystery is, no-one seems to know.

Refurbishment of the subway in 2011 was a partnership project between BCBC, the students of Porthcawl Comprehensive School and Porthcawl Shout Forum and once completed we produced a plan to refurbish the Station Hill entrance.

It has taken longer than expected and not been straightforward, but with BCBC and Porthcawl Town Council funding and help, it will officially be re-opened by Carwyn Jones AM and Nottage Primary School children on Friday, September 25 at 10.30am.

Porthcawl was built around the railway, which began with the opening of the Dyffryn, Llynfi and Porthcawl Railway to transport coal and iron ore to the dock in 1829 and a Bridgend link followed in 1846.

The first steam and passenger services began in 1867 and a heritage storyboard will display the complete history, old pictures and I hope the date when the dual carriageway and subway were opened to replace the railway at Station Hill.

If you know when, please contact me at g.victor@btinternet.com or telephone 01656 783491.

Gary Victor,
Porthcawl Shout Forum.

Work on the entrance to the subway is almost complete.

BLUE BADGE 'TOOL KIT'

WITH reference to your recent article about Blue Badges, could you please explain what was meant by a 'tool kit'?

This mystified both my husband and myself and as he has a Blue Badge it is a considerable worry to us that he may lose it.

We know of several disabled people in the Bridgend area who have recently lost their badges for no apparent good reason.

Why is it up to the local council to decide this important issue? Surely it is a matter for the DWP?

E Hughes, Bridgend.

Footnote: The GEM understands that the phrase 'tool kit' is jargon for the assessment form for new Blue Badge applicants.

Litter-free

WATERY LANE is not the only place with a litter problem: quite often I see someone picking up litter in Cowbridge streets. I once stopped to congratulate him on his public spirit and he said: "There is no entry exam, anyone can do it but no-one ever does". Slightly embarrassed I walked on.

(*Name and address supplied***).**

Marie Curie Walk to Remember

I AM a Marie Curie nurse at the hospice in Penarth, and I am calling on your readers and friends and family to sign up for the 'Walk to Remember' at Cardiff Castle on Sunday, August 30.

Walk to Remember is a series of 10k evening walks taking place at 17 locations throughout the UK this summer.

All the money raised will help Marie Curie nurses, like me, to provide more care and support to local people living with a terminal illness in their own homes, or here at the hospice.

The walk starts at 6.30pm from the grounds of Cardiff Castle and then after the walk as the sun goes down, you can enjoy live music from Perfect Day Dance Band, Circus Malabaristas Fire performers, a samba band, and lots more.

It only costs £10 to register online or on the night £20, and we ask everyone who takes part to try and raise as much as they possibly can as every penny raised goes towards caring for local people.

Walk to Remember at Cardiff Castle is open to everyone who wants to support Marie Curie and I hope the public will come along and join us.

To register, visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/walktoremember or for more information, call 02920 426068.

Julia Taylor,
(Marie Curie nurse).

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL SEPTEMBER 3)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
27 Thur	04.56	8.4	17.22	9.1
28 Fri	05.52	9.2	18.15	9.7
29 Sat	06.41	9.8	19.07	10.3
30 Sun	07.28	10.3	19.52	10.7
31 Mon	08.14	10.7	20.36	10.9
01 Tues	08.57	10.8	21.21	10.8
02 Wed	09.42	10.5	22.04	10.4
03 Thur	10.22	10.1	22.48	9.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO, Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London EC4M 7LG Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

Catch up with all the latest news from the area - follow us on Twitter @*gem_news*

The Pencoed and District Art Group. (Photo by Mandy Thomas, mandythomasphotography.com).

Pencoed art group stages exhibition

THE Pencoed and District Art Group will be holding their second exhibition at the Nolton Art Gallery, Nolton Street, Bridgend.

The exhibition starts September 1 and continues through the whole of the month. Last year's exhibition was considered a great success, especially as several exhibits were sold.

A spokesman said: "This year's show is an eclectic display which showcases the talents of this small but enthusiastic group. Watercolours, acrylic and pastels are on show, featuring a wide range of subjects.

"For such a small group the skill level is of a high standard and shows some individual techniques so there is something to interest all people's artistic preferences. This is a wonderful chance to see a colourful and exciting display of work by a small group of local amateur artists.

"The group began in 2012 and meets weekly on Thursday evenings in Pencoed's Woodlands Pavilion. We do not teach or instruct but just enjoy painting and sketching and motivating each other to improve. Later in the year, the group will be welcoming a Cardiff artist – Arnold Lowrey – to give a talk and demonstration."

Bridgend man (21) had a knife in town centre

by AJ SICLUNA

A DRUNKARD who brandished a knife in the centre of Bridgend, and who later lay face down in the middle of a busy road, has been sentenced to eight months imprisonment, the sentence suspended for two years, at Cardiff Crown Court.

Thomas Carey (21) of Nolton Street, Bridgend, admitted charges of affray and possessing a bladed item.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said Carey was drunk and was seen waving a knife in Nolton Street on July 2 and shouting threats randomly at anyone.

He was told to calm down, but seconds later, lay face down in the road.

An off-duty police officer approached Carey, who said: "I don't give a **** if I am arrested."

The knife involved was later found in his home.

He was said to have convictions for causing actual bodily harm, assault and public order matters.

Recorder Mark Powell QC said he didn't wish to hear any mitigation, and although it was a serious matter, Carey had been in prison for six weeks.

He added: "You have difficulty with alcohol as well as some mental health problems. When in custody, you have done your best to help yourself."

He was also made subject to a community order, a supervision order and a rehabilitation activity order. He was also directed to observe a 16-week curfew, electronically tagged from 9pm to 6am.

He was told to pay a £900 criminal court charge, which has been recently introduced, and a £100 victim surcharge.

Don't let food bugs spoil your barbecue

WITH the summer season for outdoor eating well under way, Bridgend County Borough Council and the Food Standards Agency are reminding residents to stay safe when eating out at barbecues and picnics.

In particular, the message is to steer clear of the nasty campylobacter food bug which can be caused by preparing and cooking chicken incorrectly.

The Food Standards Agency estimates that around 280,000 cases of food poisoning a year can be traced to the campylobacter germ.

Campylobacter food poisoning usually develops a few days after eating contaminated food and can lead to sickness including abdominal pain and severe diarrhoea, while the most severe cases can even cause paralysis or death.

A council spokesman said: "To stay safe, raw chicken should be stored separately from other food, covered and chilled on the bottom shelf of the fridge. Never wash raw chicken as it splashes germs, and make sure that you wash all equipment and utensils that have touched raw chicken in detergent and hot water. Hands should always be washed thoroughly after handling raw chicken using running water and soap.

"And finally, always check that chicken is cooked thoroughly – no pink meat, steaming hot and the juices run clear."

The Food Standards Agency also has the following tips for barbecue chefs:

Keep raw and cooked meats separate and don't share plates and utensils between them; cook marinades thoroughly if you intend to use them as a glaze or sauce; charred doesn't mean cooked, so ensure that all meat is cooked properly; cook chicken and sausages in the oven and finish off on the barbecue.

Legion AGM date is changed

DUE to unforeseen circumstances, the Royal British Legion's Bridgend branch AGM is now on Tuesday, October 6 at 7pm.

Volunteers are needed for the Poppy Appeal 2015 from Friday, October 23 until Saturday, November 7. Contact 01656 669988.

Can the lady who asked for a wreath please get in touch with Andy Reekie, the secretary.

Jane White, abseiling in fancy dress.

Clinic staff aim to help out two charities

STAFF from Caswell Clinic at Glanrhyd Hospital, will hold two events during September to raise money for two worthwhile causes.

During 2012, they raised £4,959 for the palliative care centre, Y Bwthyn Newydd, and this year they have decided to do it again, this time sharing the donations between Y Bwthyn Newydd and the Geraint Richards Fund.

Y Bwthyn Newydd, in Bridgend Hospital has an eight-bed inpatient area and day centre. Facilities including a specialist therapy room, treatment area, dining room, kitchen and even on-site hairdressers for patients.

Geraint Richards is a Bridgend teenager who suffered severe brain damage following a near fatal asthma attack last year.

The first event is a charity night on Friday, September 11 at Tondu Cricket Club, with live entertainment, a disco and charity auction. Tickets cost £5.

However, if you're feeling a bit more adventurous you can take part in a sponsored abseil down Porthcawl fire station tower on Saturday, September 16.

Staff member Shannon Harris, who is helping to organising the event, said: "Everyone had a great time back in 2012. It was amazing and we raised an incredible amount.

"One person, Jane White, even dressed up in a full cow costume to complete her abseil. It was such a laugh. We are hoping this year's events will be just as good."

For further information, tickets or sponsor forms, contact Shannon on 07858 719856.

Concert to support the Urdd festival

THE Maesteg Urdd appeals committee is getting its fundraising under way with a concert on Saturday, September 5 at 6.30pm at Maesteg Town Hall.

There will be a wide range of performances, including Maesteg Children's Choir, Contagious dance group, Take Note vocal ensemble and solo performances from Rhydian Jenkins and Angharad Edwards (harpist).

Funds are being raised for the visit of the Urdd Eisteddfod to the Bridgend and Taff Ely area May 29–June 2017. More information is available on *www.urdd.cymru* .

*Tickets are £5 and are available from 01656 734665 or 07943176723 or at the door. The committee extends a warm '**croeso'** to all!*

TORY AM WILL OPPOSE COURT CLOSURE PLANS

REGIONAL AM Suzy Davies is to oppose Justice Minister Michael Gove's proposal to close Bridgend Magistrates' Court.

The Welsh Conservative Regional AM says that while, in her view, the UK Conservative government has got it totally wrong as far as Bridgend is concerned, in principle, she supports attempts to reduce court appearances by using Skype and other methods.

Mrs Davies said: "As a former solicitor, I have lived through the previous Labour Government's court closures which were made purely on grounds of cost. There was no consideration then of the wider picture and the need to look at the consequences for access to justice. But I am disappointed to see proposals for more closures.

"This consultation is different from previous ones as it acknowledges something new – that claimants, defendants and their solicitors sometimes get dragged to appear at hearings during the course of a case when they do not need to be physically present.

"This consultation is also considering the possibility of closing buildings but providing the services at another building in the vicinity. This is what's happening for Neath and Port Talbot where everything is being centralised in Port Talbot.

"But in the case of Bridgend, I have serious concerns. There is no suggestion of providing services in an alternative building.

"It is proposed to hear criminal cases in Cardiff instead and I do not feel it is appropriate to ask defendants, witnesses or professionals to travel from the further reaches of Bridgend borough – places like Nantymoel, Caerau or Blaengarw – and expect them to travel to Cardiff often for very short court appearances."

The AM pointed out: "Some of the procedural hearings only last a few minutes." She went on: "The court in Cardiff is not easy to find and if people are relying on public transport, it could take hours to actually get there."

Mrs Davies said that as far as civil and family cases were concerned, it was proposed to hold those at the Justice Centre in Port Talbot.

She added: "Once again, there is a transport problem. All parts of the county borough have direct services taking them to Bridgend – that is not the case with Port Talbot.

"The Justice Centre in Port Talbot is also difficult to access from the railway and bus stations.

"While I welcome the fact that the government is looking at the possibility of cutting down on the number of times people have to actually go to court, on those occasions where travel is necessary, they have got it totally wrong for the cases heard at the Magistrates Court.

"As far as civil and family cases are concerned, I wonder if the aim is to justify centralising all cases to Port Talbot by ensuring that it has enough work. The needs of court users in Bridgend will not be met by these new arrangements."

Mrs Davies will make her views known when she submits her observations in the consultation process.

How time flies at Afon y Felin!

THE last school year seems to have flown by! We had a very busy time: we welcomed Ms Williams from Mynydd Cynffig Infants to lead our school, (and we are so pleased that we don't have to give her back).

Mr Hughes and Miss Jones have proved to be very popular teachers with all the pupils. Our PFA have raised lots of money – they paid for the entire school outing to Folly Farm.

Our attendance has increased by over two per cent, with each class competing every week for the Attendance Cup. We have also held successful after-school clubs, offering art, ICT, photography, cooking and a lot more.

We have formed a basketball team, who came fourth out of seven teams at The Blitz (excellent for a new team) and the Lifeguards took an assembly.

Cricket Wales taught our children a new skill to use in the future; theatre groups have entertained us and we were extremely fortunate to welcome a harpist! She even let some of the children play.

As we start another school year, we are pleased to welcome all the new pupils, we know you are going to be very happy here!

AJ PRITCHARD, Parent Governor

NHSlawyer

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Rotary ramblers overcome obstacles on August trail!

Ready a ramble?

ON August 15 a merry band of Bridgend Rotary Club members, guests and pets assembled at Bryngarw Country Park car park for the August Ramble – a short walk along level ground.

Gwyn Thomas and Edward Jones (Edward on crutches after a hip operation) decided to remain close to Abergarw House.

John McCarthy, Edgar Burt, president Alan Reeks (plus dog), Mike Lewis, Gillian Hale, Hopkin Joseph and Sonja Cain (plus her two children as guests), set off to the western bank of the Garw River and then northwards through the well-maintained Japanese garden of Abergarw House in the Bryngarw Country Park.

Leaving the grounds of Abergarw House, the route crossed pasture fields, through some overgrown footpaths and muddy trails, to reach the South Bettws to Llangeinor road.

The major route obstacle was encountered here – a five-bar gate (locked) to 'leap over', closely followed by two frisky horses (who encouraged a quick exit);.

All got safely over, save one member who landed rump first backwards, with an Olympic display of gymnastics!

They crossed a road bridge over the Garw River, then went down a stepped path to the Brynmenin to Ponycymmer rail track with cycle track adjoining (a gentle, dry, hard-surfaced pathway) for the return journey to the country park.

The next Bridgend Rotary Ramble is a more energetic two – three hour walk on September 16 to Mynydd Baiden/Maescadlwr. Local legend identifies the area as the 'Arthurian' Badarn Mountain /field of battle.

HOPKIN JOSEPH
Team leader,

Pictured are: Emma Hobby, Daniel Watts, Arianne Brace, Lois James, Eleanor Jones, Rhys Granville, Thomas Lewis, Mikaela Woolen Lewis, Samuel Griffiths, Hannah Pottinger, Harvey Jones, Gabriella Wilde, Max Brennan, Thomas Exton, Daniel Jenkins, Shivani Potnis, Emily Williams, Carys Sheard, and Brogan Thomas.

BRYNTEG'S DELIGHT AT RECORD GCSE RESULTS!

Top performers were Carys Sheard and Brogan Thomas

Hywel Phillips, Max Brennan and Samuel Slade. Hywel and Max played for the Ospreys' under-16s team last year.

ALL at Brynteg Comprehensive School were delighted with this year's GCSE results, the best ever in the school's history.

Sixteen students achieved 10 or more A*/A grades. A spokeswoman said: "We congratulate all of our students and staff on the results. Their hard work has once again been rewarded.

"We look forward to welcoming back the vast majority of this year's year-11 cohort next year into our exceptionally successful sixth form to further build on their outstanding achievements at GCSE."

Pupils who gained eight or more A or A grades were: Emma Hobby, Daniel Watts, Arianne Brace, Lois James, Eleanor Jones, Rosie Stride, Rhys Granville, Aimee Haines, Thomas Lewis, Hywel Phillips, Mikaela Woolen Lewis, Samuel Griffiths, Hannah Pottinger, Harvey Jones, Gabriella Wilde, Max Brennan, Courtney Edwards, Ella Edwards, Thomas Exton, Daniel Jenkins, Shivani Potnis, Samuel Slade, Emily Williams, Ayisha Dyer, Megan Howley, Amy Morgan, Carys Sheard, Brogan Thomas, and Claire Williams.*

ND

Megan Howley, Ella Edwards and Chloe Edwards, more of the schools' top A/A pupils with 32 A*/A grades between them!*

Call for Wick's green fingers!

PREPARATIONS for the Wick Horticultural Society's 47th annual open Vegetable and Flower Show are well under way, with show day on Saturday, September 5.

The show will be held at the village hall in Wick, with staging for competitors from 9am – 11.45am and public opening from 2pm.

The schedules for the show, containing all the information needed to take part, will be distributed over the coming weeks, while further schedules and information about the show are available from the secretary, Julie Gwilliam, on email: *whs@phonecoop.coop*.

Entry to the show is open to everyone and we would really welcome new faces of all ages trying their hand competing across the varied classes on offer, including own grown vegetables, fruits and flowers, flower arrangements, home baking and preserves, as well as a range of children's classes.

Ron Ayres, president of the show, said: "I am looking forward to another well-supported and enjoyable event. We hope that more and more competitors come forward to contribute to the continued success of the show."

Centuries-old fair on Bank Holiday Monday is called off

THE St Mary Hill Fair, due to be held on the common between Pencoed and Heol-y-Cyw on Bank Holiday Monday, August 31, has been called off because of the heavy rainfall in August.

The administrator of the fair, Lyn Wood, told The GEM that the area allocated for car parking was waterlogged, and there was no realistc chance of it drying out in time.

The fair has been held for many centuries and attracts traders from all over the country who come along selling horses, poultry, fine china and leather goods, to mention just a few of the stalls.

Lyn Wood said: "Each year, the fair supports a local charity. Last year, we were able to give a donation of £500, matched by Pencoed Community Shop, rasising £1,000 in total. This year's charity would have been the Stroke Association Community Group in Bridgend."

She added: "The organisers of the fair, the Coity Wallia Board of Conservators, are very upset to have to cancel, but the state of the ground leaves us no option."

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Best friends – Molly Proudfoot, left, and Abigail Weale.

Molly loses her locks, in a good cause

A YOUNG Swansea University student from Porthcawl is pulling out all the stops to help her best friend, who has been diagnosed with a rare form of cancer.

Molly Proudfoot, 22, who works at Thornton's chocolate shop, in the Quadrant Shopping Centre, has just had her head shaved to raise cash for the Lymphoma and Leukaemia Society.

The history graduate from Nottage, is in training to run the Bournemouth Marathon in October, and has also donated her shorn hair to the Little Princess Fund to make wigs.

She said: "My best friend, Abigail Weale, was recently diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma, a rare form of blood cancer and she is being so brave – she has lost her hair from the chemo treatment, so I decided I'd lose mine too and had my hair cut at home.

"We've known each since year-7 at Porthcawl Comprehensive and have been really good friends since our GCSEs.

"Abigail is really brave and so positive. She's a really inspirational person and she says that when she's better she wants to travel round the world and if I can, I want to go with her.

"I was devastated for her because she was diagnosed this year when she had just graduated from York St John's University and had got a really good job and so I just wanted to do something to help."

Ian Kirkpatrick, manager of the Quadrant Shopping Centre, said: "This is a terrific effort from Molly and I'm sure she'll get great support. The people of Swansea are very generous as has been shown time and again when we have had charity events in the Quadrant."

Molly Proudfoot, who has had her head shaved to raise money for a cancer charity helping her best friend.

Molly, who has worked at Thornton's since November, and is about to start a Master's degree in War and Society at Swansea University, said: "I've always loved history, ever since I was in school, and I hope to become a lecturer or a teacher."

She is a keen runner, hiker and horse rider and is building up to the Bournemouth event: "I run about three times a week, increasing my miles each time.

"I run down at the Kenfig Nature Reserve, where I also go riding."

Hodgkins Lymphoma is a rare form of cancer of the lymph glands which affects the body's ability to fight infection. It is an aggressive form of the disease but if caught early, can be treated successfully.

Catch up with all the latest news from the area - follow us on Twitter @*gem_news*

CHARITY NIGHT IN JASON'S MEMORY HELPS VELINDRE

John Rees and Haydn Powell with the 'Take Your Pick' boxes that were used at the charity night.

The cheque is handed over (left to right): Sheila Holin; Michael Lock (Velindre Hospital); John Rees and Haydn Powell (BLFR Radio).

Claire Thomas with children Iestyn, Ieuan and Chloe.

by PHILIP IRWIN

LATE in July, more than 200 people attended a fundraising night at Maesteg Celtic Rugby Club – in memory of local man Jason Thomas.

Sadly, Jason died last year of cancer, and his family were keen that Velindre Hospital should be the beneficiary, after the excellent care he received during his treatment – and the evening raised more than £1,600!

Organiser John Rees explained: "On the night we had a band, a singer and a buffet but the highlight of the evening was the old ITV gameshow, *Take your Pick!*

"I had the boxes specially made for the event. We had some fabulous prizes to go inside the boxes – all donated by companies across the country.

"We had a mid week stay for two in Blackpool, an overnight stay at the Court Colman Manor Hotel and Sunday lunch at the Marriott Hotel, Cardiff.

"The night was a amazing success and we were delighted to have raised so much."

The MC for the evening was Haydn Powell of BFLR Radio.

John Rees added: "Our best wishes and thanks go to Jason's widow, Claire, and her children, Iestyn, Ieuan and Chloe, for their support."

Students celebrate GCSE results at St Clare's School

Delighted St Clare's students celebrate their GCSE results.

STAFF and pupils at St Clare's School, Porthcawl, are celebrating – after another year of excellent GCSE results, as 92 per cent of the pupils gained five or more A* to C grades, contrasting favourably with the 67 per cent Welsh national average, with 79 per cent including maths and English.

Overall, 45 per cent of the grades were A* or A – a three-year high and exceeding attainment in Wales of 19 per cent in this grade range.

Among the successes were straight A*/A grade students Shereen Hassn, Morgan Holt and Siobhan Lock.

Headmaster Simon Antwis was delighted at the success of the year-11 pupils. He said: "To see so many pupils achieve A*/A grades in their subject choices, is testament to how hard they have worked over the last two years; and how dedicated our staff have been in ensuring that pupils are stretched to meet their full potential and exceed challenging targets."

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Porthcawl Comprehensive School students are all smiles after excellent GCSE results

Katie Williams and Mum.

Caitlin Whiteley, with Mum and Dad.

Hannah Robertson and Sarah Spencer.

Ben White and Dad.

Hanna Beesley.

Lauren Pugh and Mum.

Peter Kavanagh.

Hannah Robertson.

Elin Morris.

Lorcan Breheny.

Lydia Pickett.

Charlotte Levey.

Alex Hunt.

Joe Williams and Josh Davies.

STUDENTS, families and staff at Porthcawl Comprehensive School are all celebrating an excellent set of GCSE results.

This year saw a large cohort of 256 students and the high quality of results was across the ability range. In total 2,711 papers were sat.

A spokeswoman said: "There has been a significant improvement in the Welsh Government key indicators. The performance in the core subjects was very strong.

"The Level 2 (grades A* – C) for English was 78.8 per cent, maths 74.9 per cent and science a remarkable 98.4 per cent.

"Based upon these returns, the percentage of pupils gaining five or more A*–C (including English and mathematics) improved to 66.3%.

"The core subject indicator (English, mathematics and science) saw an improvement to 67.1 per cent. An outstanding feature was the percentage of A*/A grades awarded; English 23.4 per cent, maths 23.8 per cent and science 30.1 per cent. Almost a quarter of the core entry resulted in the top grades being awarded.

"On a broader scale the number of pupils who gained five or more A* – C was over 80 per cent. This is especially strong given the traditional GCSE-based curriculum the school offers.

"The school is delighted that the learners across the ability range have all done so well. For the fifth year, no student has left our school without a recognised qualification.

"This year's results means the school's performance compares very favourably with the authority and national figures.

"A very impressive 33 students gained eight or more GCSE grades at A*/A, and within this group, 17 gained 10 or more A*/A grades.

"Special mentions go to:

"Katie Davies 10 A*, 1 A (Short Course) and a Distinction.

"Alexandra Hunt 11 A* and a Distinction.

"Hee-Chan Kang 11 A*, 1 A* (Short Course) 1A (Short Course) and a Distinction.

"Elin Morris 10 A*, 1 A* (Short Course) 1 A (Short Course) and a Distinction.

"Lauren Pugh 10 A*, 1 A, 1 A (Short Course) and a Distinction.

"Hannah Robertson 10 A* 1 A and a Distinction.

"Katie Williams 10 A*, 1 B, 1 A (Short Course) and a Merit."

The headteacher Mr Andrew Slade added: "The whole of our school is delighted with these fantastic results. Governors, staff and students worked incredibly hard together and this success is justly deserved.

"The school is at its strongest when all those involved with the school collaborate so well, with a common aim, each student reaching their potential.

This success will result in our learners being able to follow their chosen pathways, with the majority returning to Porthcawl to study in the sixth form. We wish all of year-11 the very best."

Year 11:

Anna Arrieta 5A*, 4A, 1A (SC Welsh), 1C; Luke Atherton 5A*, 3A, 2B (SC Welsh and RS), 1D, 1 Distinction; Sultann Azam 8A*, 2A, 1A (SC Welsh), 1 Distinction; Jessica Bennett 1A*, 7A, 3B, 1B (SC Welsh); Lorcan Breheny 1A*, 8A, 1B, 1B (SC Welsh); Lik Kan Chung 5A*, 4A, 2B, 2B (SC Welsh and RS), 1 Merit; Megan Cobb 4A*, 5A, 1B, 1C, 1A (SC Welsh), 1 Distinction; Katie Davies 10A*, 1A (SC Welsh), 1 Distinction; Jack Ellis 6A*, 4A, 1A (SC RS), 1B (SC Welsh) 1 Pass; Lauren Ellis-Stretch 3A*, 6A, 1B, 1B (SC Welsh); Callum Evans 1A*, 7A, 1B, 1D, 1A (SC RS), 1B (SC Welsh); Lowri Howell 2A*, 8A, 1B, 1B (SC RS), 1 Pass; Alexandra Hunt 11A* 1 Distinction; Chloe Jenkins 5A*, 5A, 1A (SC RS); Cerian Jones 8A, 2B, 2B (SC RS and Welsh); Hee-Chan Kang 11A*, 1A* (SC RS), 1A (SC Welsh), 1 Distinction; Peter Kavanagh 2A*, 7A, 1B, 1A (SC RS), 1B (SC Welsh) 1 Pass; Charlotte Levey 6A*, 4A, 1B, 1A (SC RS), 1B (SC Welsh), 1 Distinction; Claudia Milza-Wyatt 3A*, 5A, 3B, 1B (SC Welsh); Elle Morey 3A*, 6A, 1B, 1A (SC RS), 1 Pass; Elin Morris 10A*, 1A* (SC RS), 1A (SC Welsh), 1 Distinction; Isobel Overton 6A*, 4A, 1B; Megan Perrin 4A*, 5A, 1B, 1A (SC RS), 1B (SC Welsh); Lydia Pickett 9A*, 2A, 1A* (SC RS), 1B (SC Welsh), 1 Distinction; Lauren Pugh 10A*, 1A, 1A (SC RS), 1 Distinction; Hannah Robertson 10A*, 1A, 1 Distinction; Young Bin (Daniel) Song 4A*, 6A, 2A (SC RS and ICT), 1B (SC Welsh), 1 Distinction; Sarah Spencer 2A*, 8A, 1A* (SC RS), 1B (SC Welsh), 1 Pass; Samantha Timbrell 5A*, 4A, 1B, 2A (SC RS and Welsh), 1 Distinction; Katie Williams 10A*, 1B, 1A (SC Welsh), 1 Merit; Sophie Dalton 1A*, 8A, 1B; Caitlin Whiteley 7A*, 3A, 1B (SC Welsh); Ben White 4A*, 4A, 1B, 1C, 1 Distinction.

(*SC = Short Course.)

PENCOED DELIGHT AT GCSE RESULTS

PUPILS at Pencoed Comprehensive School were celebrating excellent achievements at GCSE level, as 94 per cent of pupils gained five or more passes at A* – C.

A school spokeswoman said: "A number of pupils have exceeded their target grades across the board, and there was a real buzz of excitement when pupils collected their results.

"There have been many superb individual achievements, including an amazing total of 23 pupils who achieved five or more A* and A grades.

"These were: Lucy Anthony (13), Isabelle Bushrod (12), Megan Coles (5), Cameron Fyvie-Davies (12), Jessica Griffiths (12), Liam Hiett (7), Ciaran Howard (5), Chloe Jones (11), Nathan King (5), Emily Morgan (8.5), Lana Parsons (5), Aaron Phillips (5), Jamie Powell (12), Rebecca Price (6), Joshua Raikes (6), Natalie Richards (8), Thomas Rowlands (6), Grace Shaughnessy (12), Zach Taylor (6), Ryan Thomas (5), Jack Watkins (5), Katy Williams (8), and Ethan Young (9.5).

"Congratulations to pupils, parents and staff on a very good set of results this year."

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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Bryntirion's GCSEs – 'by far best results ever'

STUDENTS and staff at Bryntirion Comprehensive were celebrating another record year for GCSE results, after an incredible 99 per cent of pupils gained five or more A* – C grades, with 74 per cent achieving five A* – C including English and maths, and 35 students gaining at least five or more A*/A grades.

Headteacher Nick Brain said: "These are outstanding results and a just reward for all the hard work of pupils and staff alike.

"*Congratulations to the following pupils for achieving at least 10 A*/A grades*: Fionn Luke 10 A* 2 A; Lloyd Cleary-Richards 11 A* 1 A; Scot Hawtin 11 A* 1 A; Eleri Harry 8 A* 4 A; Tom Jenkins 9 A* 3 A; Iwan Caudy 10 A* 2 A; Joseph Price 8 A* 4 A; Nia Workman 7 A* 5 A; Grace Boobyer 4 A* 8 A; Briony Morgan 5 A* 6 A; Matthew Richards 6 A* 6 A; Benjamin Patterson 5 A* 6 A; Grace Shepherd 3 A* 7 A; Nicholas Ivey 7 A* 5 A; James Hill 4 A* 6 A; Kelsey Meek 2 A* 10 A.

"Furthermore, the following students achieved at least eight A*/A grades: Polly Smith 3 A* 6 A; Dylan Stocker 3 A* 6 A; Georgia Morgan 2 A* 7 A; Jacob Evans 2 A* 6 A; Rhys Evans 1 A* 8 A.

"It is wonderful to report such outstanding results. They are by far the best results in the history of the school and reflect the hard work and commitment of students, parents and teachers to achieve results of the highest standard. Congratulations to all and good luck for the future."

Athlete takes silver medal in Masters World Championships

A Bridgend athlete landed a major World Masters title in Lyon, France last weekend.

Mel James (71), who is chairman of the Welsh Masters Athletic Association and an executive member of the British Masters Athletic Federation, enjoyed success in a relay event.

Mel, who used to work for Allied Steel in Cardiff, told The GEM: "After getting through to the semi-finals of the over-70 400m, I was chosen to lead off the Great Britain and Northern Ireland over-70 team in the 4 x 400m relay.

"We only just lost out for the gold medal, finishing narrowly second to Germany, with Finland receiving the bronze."

Previously, Mel won the Welsh over-70 400m title in Brecon, and came third in the British Championships in Birmingham. In Lyon, Mel got to the World Championships semi-finals before being chosen for the relay team and winning the silver medal.

ABOVE:
Mel James won a relay silver medal at the Masters World Championships which were held in Lyon.

Welsh medium school exam success praised

NEWS that the only Welsh medium secondary school in Bridgend has just passed its Estyn inspection with flying colours, has been welcomed.

Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd, which opened in 2008 with just year-7 pupils, has built up year by year until it now has a full cohort of pupils to Upper Sixth level.

Estyn's first inspection of the school found that it is performing well with good prospects for improvement. The school was said to have encouraged pupils to have positive attitudes to learning and that good progress is being made in all subjects.

Shadow Welsh language minister Suzy Davies, a who is a Welsh Conservative regional AM, said: "It is very pleasing to hear that the school is providing a good standard of education for pupils of all ages.

"I know that a lot of people campaigned hard for years to get a Welsh medium secondary school in Bridgend. Before that, pupils had to travel to Llanhari and earlier on, they were going to Ystalyfera and Rhydfelen.

"It takes time and hard work to build a school from scratch, as has happened here, and for seven years pupil numbers and teacher numbers have grown as the school has gradually expanded. The A-Level results last week were its first and this is only their third year for GCSE results. The school achieved a 99 per cent pass rate at A-Level with 11 per cent gaining at least three A*s or A grades," she said. " I commend pupils and staff for their hard work.

"The coming of the Urdd Eisteddfod to the borough in two years will give the area the chance to demonstrate its Welsh language credentials.

"Llangynwyd has the highest percentage of Welsh speakers in BCBC with nearby Maesteg having the second highest, so the school is located in what is the Welsh-speaking heartland of Bridgend."

Films capture ocean magic

THE Ocean Film Festival World Tour is returning to the UK from September to October to showcase ocean-themed short films from all over the globe, and will be at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl on September 19.

"The films document the beauty and power of the ocean, and celebrate the divers, surfers, swimmers and oceanographers who live for the sea's salt spray; who chase the crests of waves; and who marvel at the mysteries of the big blue," a spokeswoman explained.

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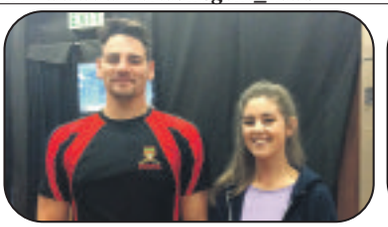
YSGOL LLANHARI'S GCSE PUPILS SET HIGH STANDARDS!



ONCE again this year, year-11 pupils and teachers at Ysgol Llanhari have reaped the benefits of hard graft and perseverance as the GCSE results were announced.

The outstanding results built on the firm foundations set by last year's cohort, with 100 per cent of the pupils attaining five A* – C grades in GCSE or equivalent qualifications.

Most notably, a fantastic 25 per cent of the cohort (eight girls and four boys) achieved five or more A*/A grades. 65 per cent of all the pupils achieved A* – C in maths and English or Welsh.

The school celebrated yet another set of excellent examination results which saw pupils across the ability range achieving their goals, reflecting their dedication to their studies. Staff and parents are delighted to be able to celebrate with all pupils who have fulfilled their potential and we look forward to welcoming many of them back to the sixth form, where they can further build on this firm foundation for their future studies. Congratulations!

MAE'N rhaid dathlu eto yn Ysgol Llanhari! Cyhoeddwyd canlyniadau TGAU rhagorol yr wythnos hon ac unwaith eto eleni, penllanw dwy flynedd o lafur caled a dyfalbarhad gan ddisgyblion a staff yw'r canlyniadau TGAU.

Mae'r canlyniadau yn adeiladu ar sylfaen a osodwyd mewn blynyddoedd blaenorol, gyda 100% o'r garfan yn llwyddo i ennill 5 gradd A – C mewn pynciau TGAU neu gymhwysterau cyfwerth.*

Testun balchder arbennig yw'r ffaith bod 25% o'r garfan (8 merch a 4 bachgen) wedi llwyddo i ennill pum neu fwy o raddau A/A. Llwyddodd 65% o'r holl ddisgyblion i ennill gradd A* – C mewn mathemateg a Saesneg neu Gymraeg.*

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Dathlwn fel staff a rhieni gyda'r holl ddisgyblion sydd wedi gwireddu eu potensial ac edrychwn ymlaen i weld nifer ohonynt yn datblygu ymhellach fel aelodau o'n chweched dosbarth. Llongyfarchiadau gwresog i chi gyd!

Calls for planning changes – after borehole green light

REGIONAL AM Suzy Davies has said she is disappointed that Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has issued an environmental permit for an exploratory borehole to be sunk at Merthyr Mawr.

NRW has issued the permit to Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd to safely manage the waste generated from an exploratory borehole.

The permit does not allow the company to carry out any hydraulic fracturing – fracking - or to extract any oil or gas. The drilling and reinstatement of the land are expected to last no longer than 12 months.

Mrs Davies, who is a Conservative Regional AM, said that as Welsh Conservatives and the rest of the Assembly voted for a moratorium on fracking, it was pointless allowing exploratory drilling for gas if fracking was needed to release it.

She went on: "I am disappointed that the views of local people in Merthyr Mawr, who were opposed to this application, were ignored.

"There are areas where methane is escaping naturally from the ground and I can see an argument in principle for capturing this gas because methane is a very damaging greenhouse gas – more so than carbon dioxide.

"What's urgently needed is new planning guidance from Welsh Government on such applications. The existing planning guidance is completely outdated and planning authorities are not being given proper help on this."

She said that the Welsh Conservatives have called repeatedly for the Welsh Government to update planning guidance but that nothing had been done.

She concluded: "The whole process is a shambles of their own making."

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TOP GCSE RESULTS AT CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

FOLLOWING the publication of its first outstanding set of A-Level results, the Cathedral School is celebrating glowing GCSE results, as 71 per cent of grades were A*/A, 92 per cent were A*-B, 99 per cent were A* – C, and the most common grade achieved was A*.

Top performers, scoring all A*/A grades included Samuel Brookes, who secured all A*s and plans to study maths, physics, chemistry and history at the Cathedral School; Sioned Harries, who will study maths, chemistry, RS and biology; Herb Ronson, who will study maths, chemistry, biology and Latin, and Prakrit Prasad who will study maths, physics, chemistry and biology, also at the Cathedral School. Headmaster Stephen Morris said: "Congratulations to our year-11 students on their GCSE results. Following the success of the school's first ever A-Level results, we are all absolutely thrilled that year-11 have done so well, which is testament to their hard work and the excellent teaching at the school.

"We look forward to our own students continuing into the sixth form here, being joined by students from other schools, attracted by the small class sizes, strong emphasis upon preparation for top universities, outstanding results and breadth of co-curricular opportunities, especially in music."

The school will host a whole school open morning (nursery – sixth form) on Saturday, October 3.

For further details, contact the Registrar on 029 2083 8504 or registrar@cathedral-school.co.uk.

Police link up with Chwarae Teg to boost equality drive

THE South Wales Police are joining forces with Chwarae Teg to deliver gender equality – starting with its own workforce.

The Welsh charity has been working since 1992 to help ensure women in Wales can enter the workplace, develop their skills and build rewarding careers, a spokesperson explained.

"This is the latest step in tackling gender equality in policing for South Wales Police, who have already begun a 'thematic review' of female officer recruitment, progression and retention across the force and will be involved in the 53rd Annual International Association of Women Police (IAWP) training conference in Cardiff from August 23 – 27."

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Sophie Howe said: "I am delighted that we have become Chwarae Teg's latest supporter and I look forward to working closely with them. We want to be the best at understanding the people and communities we serve and so it's important that our workforce are reflective of the communities of south Wales, both in terms of the number of women police officers and staff, particularly at a senior level and in terms of the proportion of BME officers.

"We have made great progress towards gender equality at the most senior level which is encouraging but overall we remain under-represented by female officers and we are working to increase representation above Inspector level, where women are particularly under-represented."

Pictured are Sophie Howe, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, South Wales Police (white cardigan) Nikki Holland, assistant Chief Constable, South Wales Police; Joy Kent, Chief Executive, Chwarae Teg (right).

Gentle Jet desperate for a loving home... *TO END HIS LONG WAIT!*

DOGS TRUST Bridgend is making a special appeal on behalf of its longest serving resident, Jet, who came to the charity over 989 days ago as a puppy in 2012.

Jet has been at the rehoming centre in Bridgend for over 25 years in dog time, which means he could potentially have been overlooked by over 6,000 people and seen nearly 2,000 of his counterparts find their own happy homes.

The sweet-natured crossbreed has been at the rehoming centre since before Wales won the 2012 Grand Slam. The London Olympics were still being planned and Cardiff were yet to ever play in the Premiership, and sadly, no-one has given him a second look.

Jet didn't have the best start in life after he came to the rehoming centre when his owners could no longer care for him. Despite this, he "absolutely adores people, and staff are baffled as to why adopters are not showing any interest in him."

He loves his home comforts so his carers are desperate to see him finally experience life in a loving home where he can do what he enjoys – curling up on the sofa with his cuddly toys and someone to give him plenty of fuss and attention.

Dogs Trust behaviourist Kim Rowe tries to cheer up sad-faced Jet.

Linda Feagan Dogs Trust supporter relations officer, explained: "I love my job and have been lucky enough to have seen thousands of dogs find their 'forever' homes over the last four years, but nothing could really compare to seeing Jet finding a loving new family of his own.

"I know I shouldn't have favourites, but he is such a gentle, fun-loving dog that I have a real soft spot for him."

Linda added: "He is such an affectionate boy who would prefer to be the only dog in the home so that he can enjoy all your attention to himself.

"He is looking for a home with older children as he is very energetic. His new owners will need to be very patient and prepared to help him settle into a home after spending so long in kennels.

"I can't believe that he has been so unlucky to have been overlooked over all this time by so many potential owners when he is such a fantastic dog.

"Jet is full of fun and he is very loving and affectionate. Although I will really miss him I know the right home is out there for him and I just hope this will finally be the year in which he finds it."

If you are interested in rehoming, please call our Bridgend Rehoming Centre 0300 303 0292 or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk

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Ted's great escape from Poland to Wales

THE speaker at the last meeting of the Barry Men's Forum was Tadeusz Zygmunl Dobrowdlny – better known to the Forum members and friends as Ted Dobbs.

He related a fascinating tale about his experiences during the Second World War. Up to the age of 14 he had led a normal life as a young boy growing up in Poland. However, on the political front, the situation was not normal.

He remembers his father, who was employed by the state railway, coming home one day and telling the family that he had booked a railway wagon and they were moving to eastern Poland. All their belongings were packed into the railway wagon and sent on ahead of the family.

They left just before the Nazis invaded Poland without his father who planned to follow later. The night before war was declared, the Germans started bombing the Polish railways and infrastructure, and they were unable to continue their travel by train to the east.

They never saw the wagon or their belongings again. He set out for his uncle's house – his mother, father and seven-week-old baby sister returned to the family home.

The Germans advanced rapidly and Ted recalled how they were unable to go out to the shops in the day, as the Stukas were strafing the city. The conquest of Poland lasted 28 days.

The Russians were reported invading Poland, and the people thought that they were coming to save them, only to learn later that a secret deal had been made between the Germans and the Russians to split up Poland between them, and the Russians were then the occupiers.

Life for Ted, the family and all Poles during this time, became very turbulent. Any Poles who were unfriendly to the Russians had to be liquidated. Even so, he did initially assist the Polish underground in a non-fighting capacity, but after the killing of an SS policeman, 20 hostages were taken from the town never to be seen again and this outrage changed his participation.

He became an active fighter, even though he felt caught between two devils, his love of his home land, and the possible repercussions to the family.

At the end of the war, the Poles anticipated the oppression of the Russians would end; however, the Yalta conference completely let down the ambitions of the Poles by allowing the Russians to remain in charge.

Ted said he had to make a decision, whether to stay in Poland or leave his homeland. The deciding factor was when he found a note under the door, 'Don't stay in the house under any circumstances, YOU are on the LIST'.

A quick contact with an underground officer and he started his escape to the West, using false papers stating that he was a Dutchman returning from Auschwitz to his home in Holland.

Travelling with a friend, they reached Prague and from there they managed to get to Karlsbad. They found a frontier between the Russians and the Americans. Under great danger, he managed to contact the American Army and was able to convince them he was Polish.

On June 14, 1945 he was given a document to this effect. It allowed him to cross the border where he joined the Polish forces in Italy.

He stayed there until the end of the occupation of Italy. He was then able to get to Cambridge in the UK, where he studied and learnt English. From Cambridge, he moved to a country he had never heard of before, Wales, to take a job as a leather worker, before he gained a place at college.

His life in Wales, he said was an amazing experience. He said that the friendliness and the standard of living was far better than anything he had experienced.

He soon settled and got married and he could not speak highly enough of his adopted country and its people.

The Barry Men's Forum meet at the Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, at the junction of Trinity Street and Aberystwyth Crescent every Thursday morning at 10.15am until noon.

On Thursday, September 3 Vernon Edwards will talk about the history and customs of the American 'Red' Indians. He is bringing some artefacts to illustrate his talk, including an authentic Indian head-dress.

For further information, about the Men's Forum, call 02920 594881. **PW**

'Put the diabetes message on film'

I WOULD like to make your readers aware of a new film competition that has been launched for children and young people to help raise awareness of Type 1 diabetes in school.

The Diabetes in School Short Film Competition is open to all students aged 11 to 17 in my home country of Wales who are invited to submit a film, of no more than three minutes long, sharing their experiences of living with diabetes at school.

The competition is a great way for any local young budding Steven Spielbergs or Danny Boyles to develop and hone their skills, as well as promote a very important health message in schools.

Getting involved is really easy.

Welsh actress Elinor Crawley is helping raise awareness of Type 1 diabetes in schools.

Participants just need to get permission from their school to take part, and before they get going will need to think about the genre of the film, equipment they may need and where they would like to shoot the film.

But the main thing I've learnt as an avid film fan and an actress, working on a number of different films, is that you need to have a clear idea of what you want your film to say, and how you want your audience to feel.

Having lived with Type 1 diabetes for over 10 years, I'm very excited to be on the judging panel for the competition and I'm really looking forward to seeing the films children and young people create in the Vale and Bridgend.

The competition will help to make a huge difference to the lives of thousands of children and young people across the country who are living with diabetes.

To apply to take part in the 'Diabetes in School' Short Film Competition and get more tips go to: www.diabetes.org.uk/short-film-competition.

ELINOR CRAWLEY

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At Securahome, we act as project manager on every new conservatory or orangery build and frequently deal with extensions that require permissions. In our experience it pays to allow at least 10 weeks for authority planning permission, with sewer agreements often involving a similar timescale.
When it comes to design, there are plenty of options to consider. Once you've spoken to a conservatory or orangery specialist,allow time to consider the layout and how you will use your new room as well as those all-important design features, before formal plans are drawn up and submitted.
This is your home, so it is important that everything is perfect.
In gardening terms,to ensure that you are sitting back in your new room when there's blossom on the trees, it makes good sense to set the process in motion before snowdrops send up their early green shoots.

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Welsh charity's 'Assault on young people' charge against UK Government

THE head of a Welsh charity has launched an attack on the UK Conservative Government, describing the withdrawal of an automatic entitlement to housing benefit for those aged between 18 and 21 and their exclusion from the 'living' wage as an "assault on young people".

by GEM REPORTER

Llamau chief executive Frances Beecher made the comments after the Welsh Government Minister for communities and tacking poverty, Lesley Griffiths had visited the charity's Ty Newydd project in Barry on August 18.

Vale MP Alun Cairns said he was disappointed Llamau was using such "partisan language".

Lesley Griffiths was visiting the project to find out more about Llamau's work with vulnerable, homeless young people in the Vale. The Ty Newydd project is operated by Llamau in partnership with the Vale Council.

Frances Beecher said: "We were delighted that the Minister chose to visit Ty Newydd today.

"Funded by 'Supporting People' funding, Ty Newydd provides a valuable homelessness prevention service in the Vale.

"The Supporting People Fund, already subjected to harsh cuts, is threatened with further cuts in the coming financial year.

"Coupled with the assault on young people by the UK Government through the withdrawal of automatic entitlement to housing benefit for young people aged 18-21, and their exclusion from the National 'Living' Wage, we call on the Welsh Government to protect the most vulnerable young people in our communities.

"Projects like Ty Newydd are at risk if Supporting People funding is cut further, leaving homeless young people without support.

"I hope the Minister will get behind our campaign to protect Supporting People funding and projects like Ty Newydd for homeless young people in the future."

During her visit the Minister learned more about the experiences of the young people she met and how their lives have been improved through support from Llamau.

'PARTISAN AND EMOTIVE'

In response to the remarks, Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "I am disappointed that Llamau haven't engaged with me to talk through any issues, and instead used such partisan and emotive language.

"The recent election was won with a mandate for welfare reform. I am always available to discuss issues with the ultimate aim of getting young people into work.

"Welfare reforms are being introduced in steps, with a significant amount of consultation to ensure that those most in need are protected.

"Unemployment continues to fall, and the Vale of Glamorgan economy is creating jobs and opportunities for youngsters in many sectors. Being trapped on benefits doesn't help anyone, and it is the most vulnerable people in our society that need an opportunity to work."

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Local councillors praise artisan market

LOCAL councillors Nic and Shirley Hodges congratulated stall holders at the annual Artisan Market along High Street, where there was a great variety of goods and produce for sale.

Couns Shirley and Nic at the Artisan Market.

Coun Nic Hodges said that the standard of the stands was very high. "I especially liked the stall selling unique Barry-branded goods. There were also lovely crafts, arts and live music.

"The weather was kind and the music performed by the Box Band was first class."

Taylor Barrington, Miss Wales finalist 2016, was fundraising for the charity 'Beauty with a Purpose'. This organisation was created by Julia Morley in 1972 and is at the heart of the Miss World competition.

Coun Shirley Hodges said: "I hope High Street traders carry on with this event in the future.

"I suspect there are some parking issues to iron out, as we saw a number of parking tickets on cars, and I hope the Vale Council cooperate with the public and traders over this."

Forum held on economic growth

THE Leader of the Welsh Conservatives has chaired the latest in a series of community engagement forums, focusing on economic growth and job creation in the Vale.

Held at the Vale Hotel, Hensol, stakeholders discussed what was needed to ensure sustained progress throughout the Vale.

South Wales Central AM, Andrew RT Davies, said: "These forums are an excellent opportunity to engage with communities such as the Vale of Glamorgan, listen to views, inform policy and discuss new and alternative ways forward in all walks of Welsh life.

"Welsh Conservatives would scrap rates for all businesses valued up to 12 thousand pounds – and taper to 15 thousand – introduce a new arms-length body to promote Wales abroad and boost inward investment, and implement our plans for regional banking in Wales, improving access to business finance."

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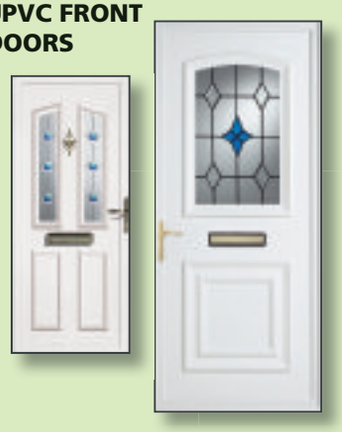

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RAFA Wings Appeal window display

PARK Independent Funeral Directors, whose premises are opposite the Barry Library in Tynewydd Road, Barry, have assembled a window display in aid of the RAF Association Wings Appeal.

As well as displaying flags and banners of the association, there are soft toys, pin badges etc all available as part of the RAFA's fundraising effort.

Items are available for purchase (by order) as well as donation boxes where your contributions can be made. The public is invited to call in and see the items available and to make a donation to this worthy cause.

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MACMILLAN WALES would like to invite all of your readers to take part in our World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday, September 25 – the 25th year of the event.

Last year, more than 10,700 coffee mornings were held in homes and workplaces all over Wales, helping to raise an amazing UK-wide total of just over £25 million to help us support people affected by cancer.

Macmillan invested more than £7.5million in our services in Wales in 2014 to help people affected by cancer, including funding our nurses, physiotherapists, welfare benefits advisers, and our information and support centres in some of Wales' hospitals.

Today in Wales, more than 130,000 people are living with and beyond cancer and the money you raise will help Macmillan fund specialist nurses and grants to support people living with cancer who have financial problems.

We think that cake tastes better together, so why not organise a coffee morning with family, friends or colleagues and enjoy cakes and a coffee? It's a delicious way of raising money and will help us reach more people affected by cancer.

It isn't too late to register for your free Coffee Morning Kit. Simply visit www.coffee.macmillan.org.uk, call 0845 602 1246 or text SEPT to 70550.

Don't forget to tell us about your coffee morning plans. Tweet @MacmillanCymru or message us at our Macmillan Cymru Facebook page. We'd love to hear from you!

Susan Morris,
(Macmillan Cancer Support General Manager for Wales).

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AWARDS THAT HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIP!

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by **Coun NEIL MOORE**
Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council

I WAS very pleased to begin the month by attending a ceremony at Dyffryn Gardens to celebrate it being named by the National Trust as Wales' most 'special place' for 2015.

Dyffryn Gardens was nominated for its breathtaking landscaped gardens, which include its famous cacti collection, arboretum and the recently-renovated 1920s garden rooms.

The iconic Vale landmark was this year's clear and deserved winner and scooped more than a third of the final votes. It is also pertinent to note that this award celebrates the best place to visit in the country, as voted for by the public.

I was really pleased to be present at the award ceremony announcement. It shows just how special the Vale of Glamorgan is to visit. I am doubly proud of this success because this is the second successive year in which an attraction in the Vale of Glamorgan county has won the award, with the 2014 award having been won by Penarth Pier.

These consecutive victories provide clear evidence that the Vale is firmly on the map as one of Wales' leading tourist destinations. Indeed, we are blessed in having on our doorstep not only Dyffryn House and Gardens and Penarth pier, but also having the Heritage Coast span the Vale of Glamorgan.

In winning these awards, it has also demonstrated the importance of the Vale of Glamorgan Council working with different organisations. Both Dyffryn Gardens and Penarth pier are examples of new ways of working, as both landmarks are still owned by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

In 2013, Dyffryn Gardens was leased to the National Trust and Penarth Pier Pavilion to Penarth Arts & Crafts (PACL), a local community group.

Working in this way has resulted in two great examples of the Vale of Glamorgan Council working in partnership with other organisations to provide improved services and being recognised for their success.

The success of this way of working can also be seen in the Vale's leisure centres. Users of these facilities will be aware that these are now managed by a private operator and that successfully contracting out the management of the Vale's leisure centres to Parkwood Leisure has resulted in a saving of £1.5m to the council.

This change in delivery of this aspect of our leisure service has not only saved the council money, it has resulted in a £3million investment into the facilities, a wider programme of activities being on offer to users, and higher numbers of staff employed. Most importantly it has brought a higher quality of service and increased usage while preventing any leisure centre closures.

Again, it is pleasing to note that since implementing this new way of managing leisure centres, the Vale of Glamorgan has been ranked first in Wales for Adult Physical Activity in the most recent Sport Wales survey and second in the most recent Sport Wales School Sport survey, which measures physical activity in children and young people.

We have also been encouraged by the newly rejuvenated Barry Island, which has brought in more and more tourists who can enjoy the beach and new attractions, like the newly operated funfair. I believe Barry Island can once again genuinely compete with anywhere else in Wales. Apart from that we have this month seen the announcement that all six of the public parks in the Vale of Glamorgan have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag status.

Yet more evidence can be found in the centre of Barry Waterfront, where the renovation of the historic Pumphouse, made possible by an innovative new lease put in place by the Vale Council, continues at great pace.

This is another example of the Council working with the private sector in helping to bring back into use a previously redundant building.

Just a few miles away, work will soon start to clear the land at Cemetery Approach, where we will be working in partnership with Barry Town Council to transform unused land into a community garden and open public space.

We have also been proactive in developing better ways of using our resources and are using planning-gain money (also known as Section 106 receipts) to redevelop some of our children's play facilities, in the areas where development has taken place.

We have commenced this work initially in Barry and recently I had the opportunity of taking a tour of the six playgrounds that so far have been, or are being, developed to see the work at first hand.

The work is fantastic and a really good use of the money that developers have to put back into the community as part of the planning process. I look forward to this work continuing in the future in all areas of the county.

This investment certainly pays off and while visiting one play area, I was able to talk with a mother and grandmother whose family were enjoying the new facilities. They made clear to me just how great an impact having convenient, attractive and safe places for children to play has on families.

SPECIAL PLACE

Continuing on this theme, I am hopeful that we will also be successful in attracting new investment and new partners and keeping up the impetus of redevelopment at both Nell's Point and the parcel of land near to the Pumphouse, which are both currently being marketed.

All of these successes illustrated to me what a truly special place we live in and how proud we should be as residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Regrettably, some, for their own means, both politically and otherwise, continue to talk it down, but we should not let those people convince us otherwise.

I make this point about working in partnership because it is something we must do at a time when (as I have mentioned before) the Vale Council's budgetary constraints are placing an unprecedented strain on the organisation.

Indeed, over the next three years we must make savings of £25million, while also meeting the ever increasing demand for our services.

Therefore, to meet those challenges we will need to work with other groups and organisations to find new ways of delivering our services and managing our assets, coupled with our continued restructuring of the organisation.

This year, as well as working differently, we have again continued with efficiency and cost savings, by reducing the number of councillors receiving special allowances and reduced the cost of senior management as a key part of making these savings. Efficiencies alone, however, will not save enough.

Despite the unprecedented challenges that we are navigating, I am pleased to be able to end this column by announcing that our success in managing our decreasing resources prudently enables us to continue to offer two financial relief schemes that we know are greatly valued by those that receive them.

In the last three years, we have helped older people in the Vale cope with the impact that central government's austerity agenda has had on their finances.

I am very pleased to be able to say that all Vale residents over 70 who are not in receipt of the council tax reduction scheme (CTRS) and all those over 60 who are in receipt of an award under the scheme, will continue to receive council tax support of up to £40 this year, should they apply for it. In addition to this, we will also be continuing to provide financial relief to small businesses in the Vale through our rate relief scheme.

The continued development of sustainable and vibrant town centres is a key objective for the Council and the retail rate relief, which can be worth as much as £1,500 towards a business' non- domestic rate net liability, is just one of the ways in which we are supporting local retailers.

I hope that we can continue to do so in the future.

'MADDI'S BALL' AT THE VALE HOTEL WILL RAISE VITAL FUNDS FOR DIABETES RESEARCH

'Maddi's Masquerade Ball' for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, is to be hosted at the Vale Hotel on Friday, October 30.

Maddi's mother Emma Loyns, from Bridgend, hopes the event will raise awareness of young people coping with the disease.

Emma told The GEM: "I am the proud mummy to two beautiful daughters. My eldest daughter, Maddison, has just turned eight years old. Just after her sixth birthday, on St David's Day 2013, she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

"Although people tend to be aware of type 2 diabetes there is not much understanding and awareness of type 1 which is an auto-immune deficiency that causes the body to attack its own insulin-producing cells.

"Effectively it means she has a broken pancreas. There is currently no cure for type 1 diabetes so this diagnosis had a massive impact on all our lives."

Emma explained that for a young girl, it means a lot of disruption and a restricted lifestyle.

"Maddison currently uses an insulin pump to control her diabetes. She is connected to the pump 24/7 and endures daily finger pricks, cannula changes, hypos and more recently she has been using a continuous glucose monitor (CGM) that measures her blood sugar patterns constantly.

"As Maddison is dependent on so much technology to keep her alive she has to have one-to-one tuition in school and finds visiting friends near impossible unless she has someone with her who is trained in diabetes management.

"This also means she cannot stay with relatives or sleep over. Maddison has amazed us all with her attitude towards the condition.

"She has ups and downs as expected but on the whole she deals with it positively. Above all she has hope, which is something we have fully embraced as a family. We have hope for the future and hope for a cure."

After Maddison's diagnosis, Emma began to support diabetes charities.

"JDRF is a relatively small charity but is specifically for research into curing type 1 diabetes.

"So much has already been achieved by JDRF and the local branch has been particularly supportive.

"I started running 18 months ago to raise money and most recently completed the Cardiff half marathon, collecting sponsorship for JDRF.

"Maddison has started to get involved in raising money for JDRF too and ran the Cardiff Bay 2k with her sister and raised £156."

Emma decided she wanted to do something more ambitious in terms of fundraising.

"This year I have decided to hold an event at which we can all enjoy a lovely evening while raising lots of money for JDRF. It benefits all type 1 diabetics and their families."

Maddi's Masquerade Ball will take place on Friday, October 30 at the Vale Hotel. The ball starts at 7pm with a 'welcome' cocktail followed by a three course meal.

There will be a band and entertainment throughout the evening including a 'pre-auction' website and live auction on the night. Tickets cost £45 and tables of 10 are available.

Emma said: "We would love to see support from the local community at this event. There will be a Halloween theme with a 'black tie and masks' dress code."

To book tickets and for more information, contact Emma on 07901 020 302; or at the email address:*emmaloyns@icloud.com*.

Maddison (aged eight) and Lillia Loyns (aged six) with JDRF representative Danielle Angell, presenting their cheque following their sponsored 2k at Cardiff Bay in 2015.

Home at last! Owen was welcomed back to Rhoose by friends, family and RAF St Athan Voluntary Brass Band. IMAGE by SANDRA COOPER

Owen completes round Wales trek for school in Fiji

ON July 1, Owen Doel from Rhoose began a 1,024 mile trek round Wales to raise funds for a school in Fiji for under-privileged children.

On Tuesday afternoon August 25, he arrived back in Rhoose a little foot-weary, but greeted by friends, family and the RAF St Athan Voluntary Brass Band.

Owen was raising funds for Global Vision International Charitable Trust.

"All the money that I raise will be used to fund a purpose built vocational training centre in the remote district of Dawasamu in Fiji.

"By building a training centre, we can create an environment where young Fijians can learn new skills that will strengthen their communities and further their opportunities.

"In turn, this will assist the community in maintain their traditional way of life whilst finding ways to make it more sustainable in the future."

He arrived home in fine fettle, though suffering from tendonitis!

Owen has raised £5,766 so far, but his aim is to reach a target of £10,000. If you would like to donate, go to https://www.justgiving.com/Owen-Doel.

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"WE WOULDN'T HAVE A LIFE WITHOUT THEM... WE'D BE STUCK INDOORS STARING AT THE SAME FOUR WALLS."

Brain injury team in line for award

Clinical psychologist Dr Zoe Fisher with Steve Godbear.

The traumatic brain injury service team:

Top row – Dr Zoe Fisher (clinical psychologist), Helen Hughes (occupational therapist) and Dr Tanya Edmonds (consultant clinical neuropsychologist).

Bottom row – Hannah Davies (speech and language therapist) and Helen Bankhead (occupational therapist).

A TEAM dedicated to helping people rebuild lives devastated by head injuries has been shortlisted for a national award.

ABMU's traumatic brain injury service has teamed up with community organisations to offer placements on projects ranging from writing songs to building an eco-centre.

Now the service has been shortlisted for specialist healthcare publication HSJ's 2015 awards.

The team helps rehabilitate people with moderate to severe brain injuries caused by trauma such as assaults, car accidents and falls.

Clinical psychologist Dr Zoe Fisher said: "Traumatic brain injury affects all aspects of a person's life, from their thinking skills and personality to their emotions and their physical abilities.

"The effects of brain injury can be permanent, and people's lives can change beyond recognition overnight.

"Traumatic brain injury is called the hidden disability because people can look perfectly fine but it affects their thinking skills and emotions.

"They can feel very angry when trivial things happen and cannot control it because that part of their brain has been damaged.

"People often lose friends, lose their jobs. Relationships can break down. They cannot always take part in social events. Their role in family and society can change – their whole identity can change."

Specialist speech and language therapist Hannah Davies said: "Our patients come from all walks of life – we have had builders, mechanics, doctors, nurses and professors.

"Sometimes they cannot go back to work so we have to find something else for them, otherwise they can become isolated and withdrawn from society.

"We use these community projects to give meaning back to their lives. We try to help people rebuild their lives. We look at what their strengths are and find out what drives them as a person.

"We help them get their sense of identity back, sometimes in a different way but still in a way that is true to who they are."

The team has now been shortlisted in the Value and Improvement in Specialist Services category of the HSJ awards.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony in London next month.

Among the many people the team has helped are Steve Godbear and Lydia Bowser, who have both been involved in the Down to Earth project.

Two years ago Steve, aged 31, was out celebrating his birthday in his home city of Swansea when he was the victim of an unprovoked attack.

He said: "I can remember standing there with a drink in my hand and then I was in hospital. Now my memory is terrible. I was classed as disabled. I lost my job and lost my speech, though I got that back. My life was turned upside down.

"The work the team does is incredible. If it wasn't for them I don't know where I would be now.

Lydia, a former Wales organiser with the University and College University Lecturers' Union, had head injuries in an accidental fall at her Bridgend home seven years ago.

The effects include chronic migraines and pain, cognitive disability, long-term and short-term memory loss and problems with concentration. Lydia has been seeing the TBI team as part of her ongoing rehabilitation.

As well as working on the Down to Earth project, she joins Dr Fisher and rehabilitation medicine consultant Dr David Abankwa when they visit medical students so she can talk about her experiences.

Lydia (36) said: "I really wanted to go back to work. My employers were amazing. They kept my job open for three years but sadly it wasn't to be. That was one of the hardest things I have ever had to deal with, but working with the team helps you lead a normal life.

"The doctors and consultants on the ward save lives but we wouldn't have a life without the TBI team.

"We'd be stuck indoors staring at the same four walls all the time."

Lydia Bowser.

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AFTERNOON CRUISE TO MINEHEAD Friday 28 August. Depart 3.30pm – Return 9pm. Enjoy an afternoon cruise to visit the bustling seaside resort of Minehead with two hours ashore to look around. **Fare: £25 Seniors: £23 Child: £12.50 Family: £69**.

EXMOOR COAST CRUISE TO GLORIOUS ILFRACOMBE & BIDEFORD BAY Saturday 29 August. Depart 10am – Return 8pm. Enjoy a delightful scenic cruise along the Exmoor coast to the Victorian seaside resort of Ilfracombe with over 4 hours ashore to explore this fascinating resort or stay aboard for the full cruise to scenic Bideford Bay. **Fares to Ilfracombe Adults £33. Child £16.50. Family Ticket £89. Full Cruise £36. Child £18. Family Ticket £97.**

CLEVEDON & HOLM ISLANDS CRUISE Sunday 30th August. Depart 11am-6.15pm Cross the Channel to Clevedon before cruising round the mysterious Holm Islands. **Fares to Clevedon: £15 Child: £7.50 Family: £40. Full cruise: £23 Child: £11.50 Family: £65**

SAIL AWAY TO GLORIOUS ILFRACOMBE & EXMOOR COAST! Tuesday 1st September. Depart 10.30am – Return 9pm*. *Coach return to Penarth from Porthcawl. Sunday 13th Sepetmber. Depart 10am- 7.45pm. Wednesday 16th September. Depart 10.30am -7pm. Join us aboard Balmoral to cruise to the delightful seaside town of Ilfracombe with plenty to enjoy for parents and children with plenty of time ashore to explore! Alternatively, continue cruising along the scenic Exmoor coast with a short stop in Ilfracombe before your return. **Fare to Ilfracombe: £33 Senior: £31** Child: £16.50 Family: £89. Full day cruise: £36 Senior: £34** Child £18 Family: £97.** ** Senior fare weekdays only

MORNING CHANNEL CRUISE Friday 18 September. Depart 10.15 – Return 1pm. Enjoy a morning cruise across the Bristol Channel to Clevedon taking in the scenery (non landing) - & why not enjoy breakfast aboard? **£15 Seniors £13 Child £7.50 Family Ticket £40.**

CLEVEDON & SPECTACULAR WELSH HERITAGE COAST & HOLM ISLANDS CRUISE Friday 18 September. Depart 1pm – Return 7.45pm. Enjoy an afternoon ashore at the Victorian seaside resort of Clevedon or stay aboard for the superb scenery of the Welsh Heritage Coast and cruise around the mystical Holm Islands. **Fares to Clevedon £15 Seniors £13 Child £7.50 Family Ticket £40. Full Cruise £21 Seniors £19 Children £10.50 Family Ticket £57**

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Choir's concert highlight of tour party's visit to Wales

BRIDGEND Male Choir was proud to provide after-dinner choral entertainment to a private tour party from Auckland, New Zealand, on the theatre stage at Craig Y Nos Castle at the weekend.

Led by musical director Rhiannon Williams-Hale and supported by guest accompanist, Ryan Wood, the choristers were on top form.

Content included traditional Welsh folk-songs and hymns; ballads and operatic items, which had been specifically requested by the tour organisers.

Rhiannon had regally entertained with vocal solo items, 'Fields of Gold' and 'Ar Lan Y Mor', accompanying herself on piano. It may be some time ago that she was Welsh choir girl of the year, but that early talent has continued through the years.

Rhiannon Williams-Hale, musical director and Ryan Wood, accompanist.

The tourists are visiting places of art, culture and musical significance and, after a standing ovation, a spokesman commented that the evening had been the highlight so far.

The choir at Craig Y Nos Castle.

'Thank you' for a magical experience in West Side Story

BARRY ISLAND resident, David Alexander, has contacted The GEM to highlight the "magical" experience he and the cast of *West Side Story* had last week at the Memorial Hall Theatre.

David, a retired teacher, explained: "Last week, I had the honour of playing Doc in Superstars in the Making's production of West Side Story.

"In an age when there is so much negative publicity about young people it was a privilege and an absolute joy to be involved in a production of this modern classic with such a wonderful group of young people.

"Apart from myself and Anthony Thomas, who doubled as Gladhand and Officer Krupke, the whole cast were in their teens or early twenties. They were so very hardworking – the choreography was hugely demanding– thoroughly professional and dedicated to getting every detail absolutely spot on.

ABOVE: David in character as Doc.

"They could not have been more welcoming to us two 'old-hands', and were enormous fun to work with.

"My second 'thank you' is to the people from Barry and further afield who came to see the show.

"A huge issue in theatres these days is people taking photographs or even filming shows on their mobile phones.

"It is actually copyright theft, spoils the experience for neighbouring members of the audience who want to concentrate on watching the show, and the red lights and reflected light from the screens on the faces of people doing it is very distracting for the performers.

"They have a colossal amount to remember and need absolute concentration.

"Not a red mobile phone light in sight! You sensed the audience's absolute attention as soon as you walked on stage and the applause that erupted at the end, a standing ovation every night, clearly demonstrated how everybody present enjoyed the show and appreciated the work and artistry that went into it.

"Thank you, cast, crew, Memo staff and audience for a truly magical experience."

ALLOTMENT GROUP'S ANNUAL SHOW BRAVES THE DRIZZLE!

IT was pleasing to see such a great turn-out at the Ogmore Valley Allotment Association's annual show last Sunday morning at the Canolfan Bethlehem Centre in Ogmore Vale, home to Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir.

Despite all the drizzle outside, people managed to haul themselves from their settees to show off their home grown produce.

Competition was a tad fierce; with Nigel, the chairman, pre-measuring sunflowers for the tallest and not providing photographic evidence!

It was unsure whether the event would take place due to lack of past interest, but as you can see from the photo, there were plenty of entrants and it provided a lovely opportunity for fellow allotmentees to catch up and have a bit of fun!

Well done to Nigel Ray on lifting the trophy for first place, along with John Hughes and Jerry coming a close second and third respectively.

Also, a big thank you to Lynda Williams from the Bridgend Allotment Association, for coming along to judge the event and not forgetting all those who took part.

Sandy Blackburn, OVAA Secretary.

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Maesteg PACT

BRYNCETHIN PACT *public meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 2 at Nazareth Chapel at 6pm.*

PYLE/CEFN CRIBWR/CORNELLY PACT *on Thursday, September 3 at Pyle Life Centre at 6.30pm.*

SARN/BRYNCOCH PACT *public meeting will be held on Monday, September 7 at Sarn Life Centre at 7pm.*

BLACKMILL PACT *will be held on Tuesday, September 8 at Blackmill Community Centre at 6pm.*

LLANGEINOR PACT *public meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9 at the Richard Price Centre at 5.30pm.*

NANTYMOEL/OGMORE VALE PACT *public meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9 at Horeb Chapel at 7pm.*

YNYSAWDRE CUPPA WITH A COPPER *will be held on Thursday, September 10 at Ynysawdre Community Hall 2pm-3pm.*

SARN CUPPA WITH A COPPER *will be held on Monday, September 14 at Sarn Life Centre 2pm-3pm.*

ABERKENFIG/PEN YFAI PACT *public meeting will be held on Monday, September 14 at Aberkenfig Social Club at 7pm.*

BETTWS PACT *public meeting will be held on Friday, September 25 at Bettws Life Centre at 1pm.*

• FULL SELECTION OF BBQ MEAT PACKS • BACON • SAUSAGES • CHOPS • STEAKS • MARINATED MEATS • CHICKEN • PORK • BEEF • ETC •

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PLUS A FREE BREAKFAST PACK

8x VFM Pork Sausages, 6x Back Bacon Rashers, 6x Local Eggs, a ring of Black Pudding, a pack of Hash Browns & a tin of Baked Beans

Offers valid subject to availability till Sunday, 20th September 2015

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FREE EXTRAS

12x Hot Dog Rolls, 8x Large Burger Buns, 500ml Barbeque Sauce 1.5litre of Pepsi

Offers valid subject to availability till Sunday, 20th September 2015

NEW £40 LOW FAT MEAT HAMPER WITH FREE EXTRAS!

What you get...16 Chicken Breast Fillets, 4 Rump Steaks, 600g Turkey Breast Steaks, 2x 400g Extra Lean Minced Beef (90% lean), 4x Pork Steaks, 8x Low Fat Pork Sausages (90% Lean) & 12 Fresh Eggs.

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Offers valid subject to availability till Sunday, 20th September 2015

MEAT HAMPERS now being delivered throughout the Vale... Call 01446 721206 to order

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Choose a pack of 8x VFM BUTCHERS SAUSAGES worth £2.50 on production of this coupon.

Ends Sunday, 20th September 2015

• GROCERIES • FROZEN VEGETABLES • FISH • DESSERTS • READY MEALS • GROCERIES • FROZEN VEGETABLES • FISH • DESSERTS •

Visit Dyffryn Gardens for free next month...

DYFFRYN GARDENS and Tredegar House are throwing open their doors for free on September 12 and 13, when the National Trust properties take part in Open Doors Wales, to show off their houses and gardens.

Organised by Cadw, the Welsh Government's historic environment service, Open Doors offers both local people and visitors alike the chance to explore the hidden treasures of Wales's culture and history for free.

It's a great opportunity to visit some local places that you may never have visited before.

Dyffryn will show off their green initiatives and reveal ways to go green at home to look after the environment as well as energy bills. Have a go at the green trails in the garden and visit the Centre for Sustainable Energy's stand.

The kitchen garden produce will have been harvested for visitors to taste some zero-mile home grown Dyffryn produce in the tea rooms.

At Tredegar House there will be traditional games in the gardens, crafts and trails. Meet the Rhondda lace makers on Saturday (12pm–3pm) for demonstrations of traditional techniques.

Kate Simons, Visitor Experience Manager at Dyffryn, said: "Open Doors Wales is a great opportunity to visit some of those places on your doorstep that you may never have visited. Both Dyffryn and Tredegar will have lots to keep you entertained as well as exploring both their houses and gardens.

"Dyffryn and Tredegar are only 30 minutes apart on the M4, so you can visit both in a day if you're feeling energetic, or you can take some time to sit back and relax and visit one on each day."

Dyffryn will be open from 10am to 6pm with last entry at 5pm. Tredegar House will be open from 11am to 5pm with last entry at 4pm. For more information on opening times and admission please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryn-gardens and www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tredegar-house.

What's on - NEWS IN BRIEF

Age Connects coffee morning

AGE Connects Good Neighbours is holding a coffee morning with councillors and the Mayor in the Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major, on September 2, 10am-12.30pm, with raffle and craft stalls.

If you have wondered what Age Connects can offer you or a family member, come along and find out.

Computer advice

FREE digital and computer advice at Cowbridge Library every Friday, 2pm – 5pm. No booking necessary, just drop in.

Free tax advice

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale will run a free tax advice session at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Monday, September 7 from 9.30am-11.30am. No appointment needed; contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Shadows Club meeting

THE next South Wales Shadows Club meeting is on September 8 at The Conservative Club, Stanwell Road, Penarth at 8pm. Play your guitar or just listen; all welcome.

Age Positive Week

I'M pleased to announce that Sunday, September 27 to Sunday, October 4 will be Age Cymru's second Age Positive Week, our national celebration of all that is positive about ageing and the contribution older people make to our communities.

We believe this celebration is vital to counter the negative stereotyping of older people and the ageism that we all too often see, hear or experience in society.

Being 'age positive' is a vital part of Age Cymru's vision to create an age-friendly Wales. We want the Welsh public to get involved in Age Positive Week by organising tea parties to day trips, concerts to dance classes, school assemblies and forum meetings.

For an information pack about Age Cymru's Age Positive Week, contact 02920 431555 or email agepositive@agecymru.org.uk.

Ian Thomas, Cardiff. (Chief Executive, Age Cymru)

YOUR Sunday lunch GUIDE
Enjoy your time with family & friends

Take the opportunity to bring a family together

IN a world that is getting increasingly hectic, making time for family life is more and more difficult.

The days of meals around the dining room table in the evening are a distant memory, as modern-day family members are either watching different TV programmes or out doing their own thing.

It is an odd paradox that, as TV programmes featuring cooking, baking, and barbecue are proliferating, the sales of microwave meals are still buoyant.

As food guru Prue Leith recently said, people read all the cookbooks but then order in pizza.

These days, Sunday is probably the only day with a realistic chance of getting the family together, and even Sunday has pitfalls, now that Premier League football games kick off at all sorts of daft times!

So, if Sunday is the day for a family get-together, do you eat out or eat in?

Well, no one can deny that eating in has certain advantages – if you ignore the stresses and strains on the chef!

(Notice the gender neutral term - The GEM isn't going to perpetuate any outmoded stereotypes here).

Whoever that cook may be, it will be a stressful morning for him/her – preparing the food, timing the cooking of the various ingredients, and snapping at family members when they wander into the kitchen, getting in the way.

It is so much more civilised to take the stress out of the day and head out to eat at one of the many restaurants or pubs in the Vale.

The advantage of keen competition is that standards have to be kept high, and businesses have responded to this.

The days when you felt that your Sunday lunch had been cooked on Saturday are, mercifully, long gone.

Increasingly, establishments offer a wide choice on a Sunday, and if the traditional meat and two/three/four veg are not to your taste, there will be other tempting options available instead.

Another old tradition that is, thankfully, long gone is the old-fashioned unwelcoming attitude to children.

Nowadays, there is no shortage of places where children are well-catered for – not just in portion size, but in terms of play areas and items to keep their attention.

You can put a price on cooking your own Sunday lunch, and then you can compare the cost of eating out, but can you really put a price on the sense of wellbeing that comes from being freed from preparing the meal?

Let someone else take the strain, and instead relax with your chosen aperitif and enjoy your meal!

PHILIP IRWIN

Three Horseshoes Country Inn
MOULTON, Nr BARRY
01446 710428
www.3horseshoespub.com
Traditional Sunday Lunch
with locally sourced meats
Served all day from 12 onwards
Adults £9.50 Children £5.00
Choice of 5 meats & fresh vegetables
Combination Roast (2 meats) £10.95
Children's meals, vegetarian options & normal menu
Outdoor & indoor children's play area
Beer garden & large car park

The FONTYGARY INN
BANK HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT
Friday 28th August PAIGE KENZIE
Saturday 29th August THE SHRIEKING VIOLETS
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Children's MEAL DEALS available
3 Course LUNCH Mon-Sat Only £9.95
Traditional SUNDAY LUNCH served 12-5pm
BREAKFAST Served Saturday & Sunday 10am-12noon
Thursday Night is CURRY NIGHT Get £2 off all home made curry meals
Open all day FOR FOOD over the holiday period. Sunday until 5pm.
QUIZ Every Wednesday from 8.30pm.
Bring your smartphone or tablet to join in.
Large Beer Garden & Children's Play Area
Visit our Facebook page or our website www.FONTYGARYINN.com to keep informed of all our offers, entertainment and menus.
Fonmon Road, Rhoose Tel. 01446 711221

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THE TYNEWYDD INN
Dave & Emily welcome you!
'SKITTLE ALLEY & DARTS make for a modern, community pub with free wi-Fi available. FOOD is served from midday every day with great value traditional favourites, HOMEMADE SUNDAY ROASTS and some FABULOUS DEALS on our steak dishes'.
CURRY and a PINT for £7.50 all day Wednesday
REAL PUB FAVOURITES 2 x 8oz RUMP STEAKS for £15 Monday to Thursday
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Out and About with The GEM

Mis-firing jokes and tired format means that this Vacation should be passed-up

THE family holiday has often been the source of mirth for films, but perhaps the most famous are the *National Lampoon's … Vacation* series, which saw Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo and the Griswold family embark on trips that very often ended up in comedic disaster.

In a world of going back to the well, it's not surprising that this series has been 'reimagined' for 21st century audiences, and so we get a sequel/soft reboot in *Vacation*.

The Griswold kids are all grown up, and Rusty (Ed Helms) is on the verge of a midlife crisis.

He packs up his wife Debbie (Christina Applegate) and their kids James and Kevin (Skyler Gisondo and Steele Stebbins) to embark on the same rites of passage trip he went on as a child – to Wally World. However, as you might expect, the trip doesn't exactly go as planned...

There has been a trend recently of trailers revealing far too much to the viewer; see how *Terminator: Genisys*' central reveal was used as a marketing tool as an example. The same often tends to apply to comedies – how often have you walked out of a film complaining that the best jokes were all in the trailer?

Sadly, it's the marketing bods to blame yet again with *Vacation*, a film that, while including 85 per cent of its jokes within the trailer, also suffers from the cardinal sin of being amusing yet not funny enough.

It's a film that feels lazily scripted, its gags a veritable hit and miss feast that sees the odd one land but many of them fall by the wayside. You start questioning just why they thought that joke would be funny in the first place.

It runs the gamut from gags about familial

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

relationships and the pressures put on you by your parents/children/siblings (delete where applicable), to 'jokes' about the illegal peccadillos of truck drivers and everywhere in between. The episodic nature of a road movie, which is what *Vacation* is ostensibly, means that the story feels bitty, but there's no real through line to find the comedic pulse.

There are humorous moments that work (the Griswolds' choice of vehicle to get them to Wally World is several jokes in one vehicle, the relationship between the two brothers) but it's comedy that lacks a distinctive voice or personality; they feel like jokes designed by committee in order to appeal to as much of the demographic this film is intended for as possible.

The cast gamely fight their way through the molasses and try their best with the material they're given.

Ed Helms' natural style as an ordinary man twisted into extraordinary circumstances, doesn't quite gel with the character of Rusty, who is a misguided, but well-intentioned, fool, while Christina Applegate is capable of more than just one set-piece involving a college drinking game.

There is some pleasure to be mined from the fraternal relationship between the equally magnificently monikered Skyler Gisondo and Steele Stebbins, while extended cameos range from strong – Chris Hemsworth (easily the best thing here in his small screen time) and Leslie Mann – to disappointing – Ron Livingstone, Charlie Day.

Of course, the film isn't helped by loading the promotional material with the majority of the jokes in the film, but even then *Vacation* feels like a lacklustre and lazy cash-in on the goodwill of a moribund franchise like National Lampoon (two words, incidentally, that don't feature on any of the marketing material), and a mediocre comedy in its own right.

No matter how badly you need some rest and relaxation, this is one *Vacation* that isn't worth going on!

VERDICT – *A disappointing film that has brief moments of laugh out loud humour but too often hits and misses, Vacation is a prime example of a studio comedy that spreads its comedy too thin and fails to work. The likeable cast try, but ultimately can't offer anything exciting for you to savour. Poor.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: ***Horrible Bosses* (2011),** ***National Lampoon's Vacation* (1983).**

All the fun of Dinas Powys village show

DINAS POWYS village show will be held on Saturday, September 5, at the Parish Halls and Gardens.

Lots of interest has been shown in the show with The GEM since it has been publicising it over the years.

With over 110 classes catering for all ages, and with a £3 cash prize for first place in each class, it is a very popular occasion and attracts entries from all over the Vale.

Even if you do not wish to enter the competitions, there will be plenty going on during the afternoon.

The show is a fun few hours, a chance to meet up with family and friends and meet new ones.

The cost of entry is 50p for adults and is free for children under 16. As usual there will be an excellent raffle.

There will be music from the Ecumenical Seven, two Punch and Judy shows, free face painting and balloon modelling and the excellent Women's Institute teas – all this on top of the many items in all the classes to see and admire, plus a free bouncy castle, weather permitting of course.

There will also be the popular model railway track and other mechanical attractions set out in the garden as well as several community gazebos.

The new revised edition of the popular booklet Around Dinas Powys, first published in 1993, written by the popular walks leader, the late George Thomas, and beautifully illustrated by the late Don Offord, will be on sale for the first time at the show, priced £3.50.

The 'Village Trail' within the booklet has been updated as have the five walks in the original edition with new maps.

Should you require more information, contact me on 029 2051 3274 or valhartrey@talktalk.net.

VAL HARTREY, Show Chairman

National Gardens Scheme

BORDERVALE Plants, Sandy Lane, Ystradowen, Cowbridge, CF71 7SX opens for the National Gardens Scheme on Tuesday, September 1 (10am – 5pm). Admission £3, child free.

Within mature woodland valley (semi tamed), with stream and bog garden, extensive mixed borders; mini wild flower meadow, providing diverse wildlife habitats. Children must be supervised.

Lose weight, get fit, and learn a new skill...

COME dancing with Steve and Lynne – (*undefeated Welsh Open Latin American Champions and Wales' representatives in Belgium, New Zealand, Italy and Spain*), and have a ball!

Steve and Lynne have been teaching in Cardiff, Penarth and Barry for 11 years and are "loving every minute".

They are IDTA professionally-qualified teachers. The classes are "great fun, very vibrant; and as well as burning up loads of calories, losing weight and getting fit, everyone learns a new skill...

"Come along and give it a go – bring your friends as well – our classes are tailor-made for beginners (and for people with two left feet!) and we have pupils of all ages.

"All former pupils are most welcome, and there's no need to book. Just pay as you go! Nothing to pay in advance – and no registration fee.

"If you prefer to book your place, you can do it online on our web-site – and then your place is secured: *www.salsachacha.com*

"Or, you can just come along on the night, 10 minutes before the class starts, to register.

Check the advertisement below for our new classes starting in SEPTEMBER.

So it's up to you – drag yourself away from the telly – get some exercise, keep fit, and join in with us all.

See you in SEPTEMBER!

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D893.

● **£2,000:** 524357.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £6,500, was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 782069, 784490, 877573, 227551, 237173, 291565, 881024, 973428, 905954, 662760, 160794, 132225, 209327, 356308, 721329, 479815, 568894, 258028, 255607, 544172, 634849.

● **£5:** 707137, 794791, 378220, 540379, 388854, 354070, 616141, 325646, 100827, 791369, 866940, 124974, 301067, 105255, 761526, 140053, 187853, 916336, 817479, 621491, 722753, 441093, 532649, 271095, 587464, 736794, 178311, 898868, 617911, 411280, 289529, 197853, 686060, 562934, 230816, 858923, 893719, 487304, 357053, 422712, 145325, 349894, 178366, 616084, 332643, 684519, 372566, 928550, 368395, 465539, 629371, 276769, 612647, 178558, 308911, 509548, 832847, 000257, 001393.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300,

TAX ADVICE

THE next monthly surgery to offer free, confidential and professional help to those with income tax queries or problems will be held at Pencoed Library on September 15.

A surgery will also be held at Port Talbot Age Cymru offices on September 17 and later in the month at the CAB offices Bridgend.

To book an appointment for any of these surgeries telephone our helpline on 0845 6013321.

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PORTHKERRY
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JO DELGADO
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IAIN SCOTT
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FREE QUIZ NIGHT
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SUNDAY LUNCHES
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ANTIQUES FAIR
Monday 31st August
10.00am - 5.00pm
at
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All proceeds to Nantgarw Chinaworks Trust
Entrance Fee £1.50
Refreshments Available
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CHRISTINE OSBORNE
YOGA CLASSES
Start again Wednesday September 2nd,
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THE MONDAY CLASS STARTS SEPTEMBER 8TH
My new telephone number is 01446 624782

Up to 800 stands inside/outside
Builth Wells Antiques Fair
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HIGHLIGHT PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE, BARRY,
(behind Tesco's) every THURSDAY, starting SEPTEMBER 10th, 8.30-9.30pm (Intermediate 7.30-8.30pm). Also NEW BEGINNERS at:-
HIGHFIELDS CHURCH CENTRE, MONTHERMER ROAD, CATHAYS, CARDIFF
every TUESDAY, starting SEPTEMBER 8th, 6.30-7.30pm.
Learn to Salsa, Jive, Tango, Waltz, Cha-cha, Samba, Quickstep, Paso Doble, Merengue, Rumba, Foxtrot! Check Web for more info and to book your place:-
www.salsachacha.com
Or just come along on the night, bring friends to our VIBRANT, fun and friendly classes and get fit!! Just £6.00
Students £5.00. Former pupils most welcome.
Tel: 02920 758708 or 07866 551346
GREAT FUN AND EXERCISE - GET FIT - FAST !!!

Geraint Thomas, Val Hartrey and Cai Thomas outside the historic Star inn.

Walking book has now been revised...

THE popular book *Around Old Dinas Powys*, written by George Thomas with beautiful drawings by Don Offord, has now been revised.

It will be launched at the Dinas Powys village show on Saturday, September 5 at Parish and Lee Halls, Britway Road.

The first edition of the book was published in 1993 by the-then Dinas Powys Civic Trust; the new edition updates the maps and route descriptions.

The local five walks include a route starting from the Millfields, taking in the 13th century St Michael and All Angels Church in Michaelston village, and returning to walk back over an old stone bridge and continuing through the picturesque Cwm George.

The second route has three options, taking the walker through Cwm George, passing below the site of an Iron Age Settlement and then following the track towards Michaelston and the Cwrt-yr-Ala Basin. At that point there are details of two alternative routes, all ending by returning via Dinas Powys Golf Course to the village.

The third route takes the walker through a network of paths, avoiding the busy roads, from the Twyn across the Dinas Powys Golf Course to St Andrews with its lovely old church, and then back to the village passing Garnhill towards Beauville Lane and the Twyncyn.

The fourth choice is a walk along the Dinas Powys and Biglis Moors leading to Biglis Farm and around St Andrews Golf Course and back through St Andrews, passing Garnhill towards the Beauville Lane.

The fifth walk, starting at the Murch, proceeds via Cross Common to Pop Hill and returns via Green Lane and Parc Bryn-y-Don playing fields and Southra Park.

If that is not enough there's the circular Village Trail commencing at The Star and concluding at The Three Horseshoes, but taking in many of the historical buildings and sites.

Some properties have disappeared since 1993, such as St Winifred's and Wesley Court Centre, and there have been additions, such as the new modern houses on the site of the Malthouse Farm.

However, what is interesting is how little things have changed. We still have the country walks, the history and perhaps of most importance the great sense of community.

The text and maps were revised by Geraint and Cai Thomas. The booklet was edited and compiled by Derek Brushett and organised by Val Hartrey from the Civic Society.

CHRIS FRANKS

Fairies, and gnomes join the animals down on the Farm!

THERE is plenty to see and do this weekend at the Amelia Trust Farm.

The Trust is a working farm set on 160 acres of countryside in the Vale. Visitors are invited to see, hear and smell a working farm, which is providing an alternative education for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people working with skilled staff and volunteers.

The farm is a charity that receives no core funding and relies heavily on donations from members of the public. There is no entry fee, but visitors are asked to make a donation for car parking.

Every Saturday and Wednesday children can 'meet the animals' on a guided tour at 1.30pm and 2.30pm. Spaces on the tour are limited so it is advised to call to reserve a space. Tours cost £3 per child. To reserve a space, call 01446 782030.

There is a fairy and gnome trail through the woodlands (£2 per child with a prize at the end).

Find out more about what's on at the Amelia Trust Farm on our Facebook page, Twitter feed and our website www.ameliatrust.org.uk.

Follow us on Twitter @gem_news

Hundreds of enthusiasts descend on Island railway

REPORT AND IMAGES BY NICK WILCOCK.

BARRY ISLAND welcomed over 400 railway enthusiasts on Saturday, August 22 when, for the first time in nearly 20 years, a charter train from London visited Barry Island and the Tourist Railway.

The charter, run by UK Railtours, arrived at Barry with two Canadian-built class 66 freight locomotives before crossing onto the Barry Tourist Railway site, where passengers were treated to a tour of the system, firstly to the halt at Gladstone Bridge by Morrisons and then to the platform at the Waterfront.

The mainline engines then gave way to the railway's own engine, which took the train over to the Island as the freight engines aren't allowed over the weight-restricted causeway bridge.

The passengers had a two-hour break to sample the delights of Barry Island and with the glorious weather on the day, many took the chance to head to the beach for an ice cream.

For those who wanted to keep with the railway theme, the Tourist Railway ran shuttles to their main depot to allow the enthusiasts to see the various locomotives and rolling stock that are under restoration there, and to see the new steam engine that has been bought by the railway, *Susan*.

Thankfully, the rain held off until the train left Barry and feedback left online in the following days saw many positive comments about the railway and Barry.

Exam despair? *The Samaritans can help...*

GCSE, AS and A-level results will affect the futures of an estimated five million young people in Wales and England.

If anyone is struggling because of exam results, or worried about a friend or relative, Samaritans is available around the clock, every day of the year.

"Samaritans' volunteers are here for anyone who is struggling to cope after the AS and A-level results. We keep conversations private and we won't judge," said Deborah Jones, director of Bridgend Samaritans,

"As well as calling the helpline, you can contact us via SMS, send an email, or come to your local branch and talk to a volunteer face-to-face, if that's what you would prefer."

For more details contact Bridgend Samaritans on 01656 662333.

AM VIEWS NEW DEVELOPMENT

VALE AM Jane Hutt visited the new housing development at the Waterfront last week, and was pleased to hear from Persimmon's Richard Keogh how the Welsh Government's Help to Buy scheme had made a difference to house buyers.

Viewing the show houses, she welcomed the new community now establishing itself in the heart of Barry. There are exciting developments to come including, access to new services and facilities, the new road alongside the Ocean Water Sport activities on No 1 Dock and the new Pump House.

VALE SHOW HOME PRODUCE RESULTS

PRIZE winners for home produce, floral, crafts and children's competitions at the recent Vale Show were as follows:

Section 1 preserves.
Jar marmalade – DR Morgan.
Jar strawberry jam – Carol James.
Lemon curd – Tim Dawe and VR Morgan.
Jar blackcurrant jam – Mari Goldsworthy.
Jar of mango chutney – Kay Bowring.
Jar of redcurrant sauce – Kay Bowring.

Section 2 cookery.
Wholemeal loaf of bread – Tim Dawe.
Five cherry scones – Sarah Davies.
Quiche Lorraine – Elizabeth Ellis.
Five savoury biscuits – Katy Llewellyn.
Five cheese and onion pasties – Katy Llewellyn.
Boiled fruit cake – Jan Rees.
Soured cream crumble cake – C Dibble.
Victoria sponge – P Vincent.
Five Welsh cakes – Hollie Williams.
Five flapjacks – Abigail Evans.
Honey and spice loaf cake – C Dibble.
Apple tart – Emma Davies.
A decorated child's birthday cake – Hollie Williams.
Five decorated cupcakes – Hollie Williams.
Jam Swiss roll – Hollie Williams.
Five cheese scones (men only) – Graham Snowden.

Section 3 flower arrangements.
An arrangement 'Shades of Green' – Mary Grey.
A table centre – Mary Grey.
Small is Beautiful – Mary Grey.
An exhibit representing Wales – Mari Goldsworthy.
An exhibit to include a frame – Mari Goldsworthy.

Section 4 craft.
A fabric picnic bag – Kay Bowring.
An article of canvas work – Elaine Jones.
A peg bag made from an article of clothing – Colleen Atyeo.
A toy made from recycled material – Colleen Atyeo.
A bookmark – Jane Cresswell.
An item of fashion jewellery – Kay Bowring.
A baby's bonnet (to be donated to a local premature baby unit) – Julia Preece.
An iPad cover – Colleen Atyeo.
A birthday card (any medium) – KM Turner.

Section 5 art.
Watercolour – AR Connelly.
Oil/acrylic – AR Connelly.
Drawing – AR Connelly.
Pastels – G Oliver.
Photograph 'Looking Through the Window' in colour – Glyn Jones.
Photograph 'Falling Water' in black and white – Steve Randall.

Section 6 Children's Classes
Seven years and under: model of a sheep – Luca Llewellyn.
A painting/drawing of a Welsh castle – Bryony Boyce.
A Lego model (agricultural theme) – Edward Jeynes.
Age 8 – 11: Design a Welsh flag (any medium) – Mae Thomas.
Five Welsh cakes – Mae Thomas.
A Lego model (agricultural theme) – Lucy Owen.
Age 12 – 16: painting/sketch of a Welsh castle – Charlotte Owen.
Five Welsh cakes – Kiera Atyeo Canter.
A Lego model (agricultural theme) – Hebe Thomas.
Chairman's Cup competition – Lisa Liley.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council
(A4050 PORT ROAD (EAST), WENVOE)
(30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2015

On the 21st August 2015 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedules below.

The Order will come into operation on the 1st September 2015 or on the date that the necessary Traffic Signs are in place whichever is the later and a copy of the Order may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 1st September 2015 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to travel at a speed greater than 30 mph in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location The area of the A4050 Port Road (East) Wenvoe, affected is from its junction with Pencoedtre Lane, Barry in a generally northerly direction to the County boundary with Cardiff at Culverhouse Cross.

In addition, the Order known as "The Vale of Glamorgan A4050 Port Road (East) Barry (Amendment to Existing 40 / 50mph Speed Restriction) Order 2011" shall be suspended in part for the duration of this Order.

Reason To allow for the construction of new metro proposals together with improvements to footway and cycle lane

Duration From 06:00Hrs on Monday 1st September 2015, for a maximum period of 18 months or until the 30mph Traffic Signs are removed, whichever is the sooner.

Dated this 27th day of August 2015

M. E. Punter
Director of Visible Services and Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015
GORCHYMYN CYFYNGU CYFLYMDRA I 30 M.Y.A. (DROS DRO) (DWYRAIN PORT ROAD (A4050), GWENFÔ)

Ar 21 Awst 2015, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14 Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984, a phob pŵer galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y mae ei effaith gyffredinol wedi'i disgrifio yn yr Atodlenni isod.

Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 1 Medi 2015, neu bryd bynnag y bydd yr holl arwyddion traffig angenrheidiol wedi'u gosod, os na fydd hynny wedi digwydd erbyn y dyddiad hwnnw. Cewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.

Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod bŵer i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 1 Medi 2015 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

ATOLDEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw un yn gyrru nac yn caniatáu i unrhyw un arall yrru cerbyd modur yn gyflymach na 30 m.y.a. yn y fan a nodwyd yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATOLDEN 2

Lleoliad Dwyrain Port Road (A4050), Gwenfô, o'r gyffordd â Lôn Pencoedtre, hyd at y ffin sirol â Chaerdydd yng Nghroes Cwrlwys, wrth deithio'n gyffredinol tua'r gogledd.

Hefyd, bydd y gorchymyn a adwaenir fel "Gorchymyn (Newid Cyfyngiad Cyflymdra Presennol 40 / 50 m.y.a.) Dwyrain Port Road (A4050), Y Barri 2011" yn cael ei atal yn rhannol dros dro tra pery'r Gorchymyn hwn.

Rheswm Paratoi ar gyfer gweithredu'r cynigion ynglŷn â system trenau Metro newydd a gwella'r llwybr troed a'r llwybr seiclo.

Cyfnod O 6.00am ar ddydd Llun 1 Medi 2015 am 18 mis ar y mwyaf neu hyd nes y symudir yr arwyddion traffig 30 m.y.a. os digwydd hynny o fewn y cyfnod hwnnw.

Dyddiedig 27 Awst 2015.

M. E Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau,
Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council
(PONTSARN LEVEL CROSSING PETERSTON SUPER ELY)
(ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2015

1. On 21st August 2015 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

2. The Order will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Pontsarn Level Crossing Peterston Super Ely) (Road Closure) (Temporary) Order" 2015.

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location: The area to be closed is the level crossing at Pontsarn Lane, Peterston Super Ely

Reason: To allow for the replacement of Barriers, Bases and Traffic Signals.

Duration: From 22.00Hrs on Saturday 29th August 2015, until 06.00Hrs Wednesday 30th September 2015.

Alt. Route: Signed diversions for westbound traffic will be from the point of closure at Pontsarn Level Crossing, in a westerly direction to the junction at Clwdd Coch, then turning left and proceeding in a southerly direction through the village of Pendoylan, then continuing along this road in a southerly direction to the junction at grid 306191 175792 adjacent to Pendoyan Nursery, then continuing in a southeasterly direction from this junction to the junction at grid 307662 175420 at Gwern-Y-Steeple, and turning left, continue through the village of Peterston-Super-Ely to the junction at grid 308846 177362 adjacent to a property known as Lockwood, then turning left, and continue along this road in a northwesterly direction to the eastern point of the closure, and vice versa for eastbound traffic.

NB: The contractor will provide supervised pedestrian access during the times of the closure.

Dated this 27th day of August 2015.

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015
GORCHYMYN (CAU FFORDD) (DROS DRO) (CROESFAN WASTAD PONT-SARN LLANBEDR-Y-FRO)

1. Ar 21 Awst 2015, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14 Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 (ddiwygiedig), wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y mae ei effaith gyffredinol wedi'i disgrifio yn yr atodlenni isod:

2. Adwaenir y Gorchymyn fel 'Gorchymyn (Cau Ffordd) (Dros Dro) (Croesfan Wastad Pont-sarn Llanbedr-y-fro) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015'.

ATODLEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw un yn gyrru nac yn caniatáu i unrhyw un arall yrru cerbyd modur yn y fan a nodwyd yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad: Y groesfan wastad yn Lôn Pont-sarn, Llanbedr-y-fro yw'r fan a fydd yn cau.

Rheswm: Ailosod Bariau, Gwaelodion a Goleuadau Traffig y groesfan.

Cyfnod: O 10pm ar ddydd Sadwrn 29 Awst 2015, hyd 6.00am ar ddydd Mercher 30 Medi 2015.

Llwybr arall: Bydd traffig dargyfeiriedig sy'n teithio tua'r gorllewin, yn dilyn arwyddion o groesfan gaeëdig Pont-sarn i gyfeiriad y gorllewin, nes cyrraedd cyffordd Clawdd Coch. Bydd y traffig yn troi i'r chwith yn y fan honno, ac yn symud tua'r de drwy bentref Pendeulwyn, ac ymlaen ar hyd y ffordd honno i gyfeiriad y de o hyd, nes cyrraedd y gyffordd wrth gyfeirif grid 306191 175792, gyferbyn â Meithrinfa Pendeulwyn. Bydd yn symud ymlaen wedyn tua'r de ddwyrain, nes cyrraedd y gyffordd wrth gyfeirif grid 307662 175420 yng Ngwern-y-Steeple. Bydd y traffig yn troi i'r chwith yn y fan honno, ac yn teithio drwy bentref Llanbedr-y-fro, nes cyrraedd y gyffordd wrth gyfeirif grid 308846 177362, wrth ymyl darn o eiddo a adwaenir fel 'Lockwood'. Bydd yn troi i'r chwith wedyn, ac yn dilyn y ffordd honno tua'r gogledd orllewin nes cyrraedd pen dwyreiniol y fan gaeëdig. Bydd traffig dargyfeiriedig sy'n teithio tua'r dwyrain yn dilyn yr un llwybr yn union ond o chwith.

D.S. Bydd y contractwr yn sicrhau bod mynediad i gerddwyr o dan oruchwyliaeth tra bod y fan hon ar gau.

Dyddiedig 27 Awst 2015.

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

Walkers head west (*and east*) in the sunshine!

TWELVE walkers joined Val from Penarth and District Ramblers at St Brides Major on a fine morning, before climbing up onto Beacons Down and enjoying fabulous views towards the sandy dunes at Merthyr Mawr.

Dropping downhill through the pretty valley containing the medieval well of Pant Mari Flanders, which supplied nearby Heol y Mynydd with fresh water, they exited beside the River Ogmore and paused for morning break.

Continuing along the coast, extensive views opened up across the Bristol Channel where Tusker Rock was visible, as well as the English coastline and to the west, Newton and Porthcawl.

Heading east and hugging the coastline before dropping steeply down towards Dunraven Bay or Southerndown beach, they made their way into the delightful walled garden of the old Dunraven Castle, using seats for lunch break.

Continuing along part of the Tir Gofal path, they tramped through recently harvested meadows to Pitcot Pool, which is filled by springs and surface water before heading back to their start.

10-MILE HIKE

In contrast, Nick and his group headed up to Monmouthshire, beginning their 10-mile hike from the small village of Trellech, where they set off in lovely weather past the huge earth mound known as Tump Turret that once contained a motte and bailey castle, before moving on to St Nicholas Church, with its tall spire visible for miles around.

They headed through fields to Redbarn Farm, then through woodland to join a lane leading to Cwmcarvan, where they managed to view the interior of St Clements Church, after a local gentleman working in the churchyard opened up for them.

Climbing up to The Narth and passing what had been the old village pub – now a private dwelling – they first descended and then climbed once more through the woods to Parsons Allotment before returning to Trellech by way of road and field.

On August 29, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine-mile moderate walk in a figure of eight at Llantrisant; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On August 31, meet at 10am at Dinas Powys village square for a 10-mile moderate tramp on local footpaths to avoid the Bank Holiday crowds; contact 01446 737131.

To follow the group, log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

VALE SHOW PROVED A FANTASTIC AND FUN DAY OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY

PHOTOGRAPHS by ANDY WICKS
Telephone 07855 374478

VALE SHOW organisers received plaudits after this year's event with thousands of people descending on the western Vale for its premier rural occasion.

People return to the show year on year because it just gets bigger, better and even more spectacular. They don't just come from the Vale, Bridgend and Cardiff – some make the journey along the M4 from west Wales, Herefordshire and the west country.

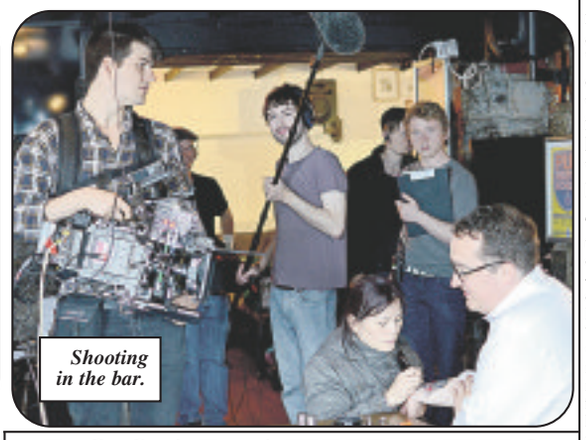
Local photographer Andy Wicks captured families and friends relaxing in the lovely sunshine.

Roll on August 2016!

BRENDON MCDONALL FILMING 'SPOILERS'

Award-winning director makes his next movie in Llantwit locations

Director Brendon McDonall checks the next set-up.



Shooting in the bar.

IMAGES AND WORDS by ANDY WICKS

A film crew descended on the Tudor Tavern Llantwit Major on Monday, August 24, with one of the bar staff getting a small speaking role.

The movie, 'Spoilers' by Australian film maker Brendon McDonall, is described as a 'comic dramedy short' and will hit cinemas in 2016.

As a result of winning the 2014 Cardiff 'IRIS' film award for 'All God's Creatures', Brendon received £30,000 to fund a new film.

Together with producer Grant Vidgen, the cast and crew will be shooting at the Tudor, Llantwit beach and Cardiff Airport over the period of a week.

Local star Chelsea Keeling, in the true spirit of Wales, gets to say 'Tidy' during her brief appearance.

Chelsea Keeling is to make an appearance in the film.

LOCAL ATHLETES TAKE PART IN DISABLED GAMES

MORE than 300 disabled athletes gathered at Swindon recently to compete in their own 'Olympics', including Welsh representatives.

The Bob Cook Memorial Games, organised by local Lions clubs, was held at the Swindon county ground and hosted disabled athletes from across south Wales, midlands and southern England.

A group of students from UWC Atlantic College provided help and support on the day and Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions attended with seven competitors from the Cowbridge Gateway club.

Ellen Warner (AC Student) reports:

The Bob Cook games, a paralympic games, took place on Sunday, August 9. Many Gateway clubs and other special needs clubs around the UK participated.

The competitors engaged in many races and games – sprints, javelin, welly throwing, discus, shotput and bowls. The students of Atlantic College went to the games as volunteers, as they have done before in the previous years.

Every Tuesday and Friday some students from the college visit the Gateway Club in Bridgend. The students of Atlantic College thoroughly enjoyed their day.

One of the students stated that it was a fun day filled with lots of sunshine. Also, she was extremely happy seeing the participants giving it their all. All the students were very impressed to see the passion that the participants gave to play sports and remain fit.

"I was very inspired by all the courage the participants brought out today," says Stephanie Anani, a student at the college.

Overall the Bob Cook games was a blast to the participants and the volunteers.

Thanks were extended to Chippenham Lions Club for leading the organisation of the event and also to the many Lions clubs who also made it such a memorable day.

Full House please, for social bingo!

THE last bingo session in our spring series at Cowbridge finished with a bang – record attendance and good prizes!

Let's hope the start of the late summer series is as successful following the holiday break, when everyone will have recharged their brain cells and girded their loins, (should they have needed regirding).

So stand by for the start of the next series on September 3. There will be good prizes of cash (prizes presented by members and guests, please!) and a meal from a local hostelry. As a further incentive, the ladies will provide you with some excellent food.

So, please turn up in force on Thursday, September 3 at 7pm for 7.30pm at The Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall with your dabber, bottle of wine (for making new friends) and some new members.

See you there!

BASIL WATKINS

FUN DAY

BRIDGEND DFC Inclusive Sports is hosting its first fun day this Saturday, August 29, on the Planka in Ogmore Vale to help promote disabled and mental health football and raise money for the club.

There will be bouncy castles, stalls, a barbecue, tuck shop, disco and an 11-a-side football match.

Entry is free to this family day, supporting a worthy cause. For more information, contact Kelly Hall on 07880 749903.

Family fun weekend at Sully

THERE is a three-day family fun and craft fayre weekend, August 29–31, at Sully Sports and Social Club, Sully, from 11am to 6pm with entertainment until late, raising funds for the National Autistic Society and the JAM fund.

There will be rides and games; bouncy castles; pony rides; go karts; barbecue and bar; food vendors' craft stalls; face painting; live bands; and entertainment including a disco from 6pm.

For more information, go to https://www.facebook.com/events/1600814173500098/

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for August 24:

1st Tony Disley & John Salisbury 67.72%, 2nd Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 63.99%, 3rd Marjorie Morris & Linda Pinnock 63.49%.

Please note there will be no bridge on Monday, August 31 (bank holiday Monday).

LE (sec)

P&K brothers finish as the top two in Welsh Championship

IT is time to proclaim a golfing family dynasty after golfing brothers Tom and Sam Peet made it a family one-two in the Wales under-13 championships, with former Wales international Matthew Peet watching on as a proud father.

Tom Peet with trophy.

While 13-year-old Tom claimed the Welsh title at St Mellons golf club in Cardiff with a 76 – and also managed to come fourth at under-15 level with a second round 71 – 10-year-old Sam was only three shots back in second place to make it a remarkable double for the two Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club members, who live in Neath.

Father Matthew Peet is a former winner of the Welsh Stroke Play title in 1995, having come up through the Wales ranks from junior to senior international before turning professional for a few years, and then regaining his amateur status.

"It was a great weekend for us, they both did really well so we were pleased and thrilled," said the proud dad.

"My wife Penny and I always instill in them the importance of enjoyment and that what will be, will be.

"They have been playing since they were five years old. I have a bit of a background in golf to start them off on the right track and then they have been having coaching with Keith Williams at the Vale of Glamorgan, through the Glamorgan county and Golf Union.

"Because they enjoy it, they work hard and happen to be pretty good at what they are doing.

"It is great for the family, fabulous, but a bit of a surprise just how well they did. I got more nervous watching them than when I was playing myself, it was a thrill and I loved seeing how well they presented themselves – and then doing so well on top of that.

"It is great to watch them growing up in the sport. It makes us very, very proud to see how they behave."

Comeback in vain for Llantwit Major AFC

LLANTWIT MAJOR AFC travelled to Cardiff for their second Welsh League Division 3 fixture to play newly promoted STM.

The visitors knew it would be a tough fixture as STM had won their opening fixture against fancied Cardiff Corries FC.

Despite this Llantwit roared into a magnificent opening 25 minutes, creating three gilt edged chances, of which none found the back of the net.

True to recent league form the opposition scored against the run of play and suddenly Llantwit found themselves 3-0 down!

The adage that goals change matches has never been more apt. On the stroke of halftime Danny Lewis pulled one back after good work from Nathan Jones, breaking up play in midfield, setting Keiran Waggers off on a mazy run. He slipped the ball into Rob Jones, who in turn fed Danny, who finished with aplomb.

After the halftime rally cry, Llantwit went about their business in a more positive fashion, Jon Fletcher, Kristian Smith and Nathan Jones bossing the midfield.

Rob Jones was proving to be (as always), a willing worker and a good outlet enabling Llantwit to mount sustained pressure.

However, again, the defence was caught napping, was left a little exposed in the quest to get back into the game and STM grabbed a 4-1 lead on a rare counter-attack.

All credit to Llantwit, as on the hour mark Kristian reduced the deficit with a spectacular long range effort. Karl was forced to make changes and made a double substitution with 23 minutes left on the clock.

Gethin Jennings and Lee Jones were introduced for Kristian and Jon Fletcher. The wave of pressure applied by Llantwit did not abate as full-backs Jon Butler and Lewis James were a constant thorn to STM.

Nathan Jones continued to influence the game and fired in a free kick which Leroy converted at the far post with a fine header with seven minutes remaining.

STM sent on additional defenders to protect their slender lead, while Llantwit continued to pass the ball with incredible precision.

In the dying seconds Rob Jones chased a lost cause, stole the ball off of an STM defender very close to the byline, and pulled the ball back for third substitute Mark Evans, who instinctively prodded the ball towards goal. The STM keeper saved with his legs and the ensuing scramble went in favour of STM.

This proved to be Llantwit's last throw of the dice, the final score 4-3.

Keeper Jack Lansdown kept Llantwit in the game with a few class saves as Llantwit threw caution to the wind.

Llantwit Major AFC youth are looking for a goalkeeper for this coming season - please contact Phill Clay on 07508 275104.

DJ

Rain no pain as Cowbridge CC set for promotion gain

AFTER a virtual washout of club cricket on Saturday, Cowbridge stand to be promoted back to Division One of the South Wales Cricket Association should they manage to gain five points from the home fixture against Pwll.

With just this one game to go, the Cowbridge first XI might be expected to achieve this target with bonus points alone. A point is gained for every 40 runs or two wickets and the five needed assumes a maximum points haul for Drefach at champions Bronwydd – the latter scenario must be considered unlikely.

There is a personal angle too. Cowbridge skipper Neil Brand is just 37 short of scoring 1000 runs in the league season, a unique achievement. Neil is also just three wickets away from getting 50 wickets.

The match starts at 1.30pm and support will be most welcome.

The Second XI have to travel to Llandysul hoping to secure Division Five cricket next year.

Captain Ian Evans will be keen to hold onto the 10 point advantage the team has over Llanelli as rather unfairly three teams are set to be relegated.

JB

ABOVE: It's midnight at Swansea Airport and the intrepid six prepare to set off.

Night-walking challenge is a real test for the Cardiff Airport fundraisers!

The three finishers arriving at Cardiff Airport.

by PHILIP IRWIN

STAFF at Cardiff Airport chose a tough 24-hour challenge recently to raise cash for Macmillan Cancer Support.

After a number of colleagues had been given a cancer diagnosis, six members of staff - Andrew Spragg, Olivia Kerslake, Kirsty Taylor-Holly, Paul Raymond, Adam Ralph and Jamil Hassan, agreed on a really testing charity walk, entitled 'Airport 2 Airport'.

They chose a route from Swansea Airport to Cardiff Airport, a mere 57 miles along the coastal path – and then determined to do it in 24 hours.

It was obvious from the outset that making good time along the coastal path when it was dark would be the biggest problem.

After several months training, the six set out at midnight on August 8, after being transported to Swansea Airport by CJ Transport of Barry.

During the night, they passed through Mumbles, across the River Tawe and on to the Neath Port Talbot border where they watched the sun rise.

They continued through Baglan and Aberavon, past Margam and into Bridgend county borough, before stopping for a short time in Porthcawl.

A spokeswoman said: "Unfortunately, three members of the group had to retire due to injury at this point, but undeterred the remaining three, Paul Raymond, Adam Ralph and Jamil Hassan, walked on.

"The heat of the day, sleep deprivation and the exhaustion of walking was starting to take its toll and the pace slowed as they left Porthcawl and moved towards Ogmore and Dunraven Bay, St Donat's and Summerhouse Point.

"With less than 10 miles to go they were exhausted but determined. They watched the sun set but were still not at their final destination. However it was getting closer with every step.

"They finally arrived at Cardiff Airport at 11.38pm – just 22 minutes under their target of 24 hours!

"Congratulations to everyone who took part. The fundraising also involved a karaoke night at the Flying Club in Rhoose and early indications are that they have raised more than £2,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

"Thank you to everyone who has donated and sponsored. Also thank you to CJ Transport, Desni in the staff canteen for providing water for the journey, to Cymru Framing for helping with the organisation and to Cardiff Airport's'' Charity Committee for their support and advice."

ON THE UP! Local GCSE students' exceptional success in Bridgend county borough

TEENAGERS from secondary schools in Bridgend county borough are celebrating exceptional success in this year's GCSE examinations.

The initial school returns for all examination boards found that the number of GCSE students who have picked up at least five A* – C grades in both English (or Welsh first language) and mathematics (the level 2 threshold) has increased to 59 per cent, which is a 4.2 per cent rise on last year's results.

Across the county borough, early indications based on WJEC results only suggest that the overall percentage of pupils who gained A* – G grades is 98.8 per cent, which is up 0.6 per cent on last year.

The county-wide percentage of students who collected grades at A* – C has risen 1.6 per cent to 65.2 per cent, while an impressive 18 per cent achieved either an A* or an A grade.

Coun Huw David, Bridgend County Borough Council's deputy leader, said: "Today is a big day for so many young people and I hope that they have achieved the results they wanted as they look towards options for higher education, training and employment.

"For anyone whose results weren't quite what they expected, I would urge them to access the wide range of advice and support that is available to help them make the right decision. Speak to your school, Bridgend College, or Careers Wales for more information.

"There have been numerous success stories and I would like to thank the teaching and support staff in all of our schools as their dedication to our young people's academic and social development is exceptional."

Several schools celebrated record breaking results, including Bryntirion Comprehensive School where 35 pupils gained at least five A* or A grades. Headteacher Nick Brain said: "It is wonderful to report such wonderful results. They are by far the best results in the history of the school and reflect the hard work and commitment of students, parents and teachers to achieve results of the highest standard.

"Congratulations to all and good luck for the future."

Both Cynffig Comprehensive School and Brynteg Comprehensive School also enjoyed their best-ever GCSE results, as did Maesteg Comprehensive School, where the fantastic achievements included 99 per cent of students collecting at least five A* – G grades.

After their successful A-Level results last week, Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School saw a surge of results at GCSE level, with the number of pupils achieving at least five A* – C grades up 17 per cent to 88 per cent.

Porthcawl Comprehensive School also posted top marks, with particularly impressive results in science where 98.4 per cent of pupils gained A* – C grades. For the fifth year running, no student left the school without any qualifications.

Porthcawl Comprehensive School headteacher, Andrew Slade, said: "The whole of our school is delighted with these fantastic results.

"Governors, staff and students worked incredibly hard together and this success is justly deserved.

"This success will result in our learners being able to follow their chosen pathways, with the majority returning to the school to study in the sixth form.

"We wish all of year-11 the very best."

YMCA EVENT RAISES VITAL FUNDS FOR Y CARE'S WORK

Lucy Pugh-Bevan, Alex Hunt and Daniel Pugh-Bevan.

Photos by David Swidenbank.

PORTHCAWL YMCA, which regularly raises money for Y Care International, the development wing of the British YMCA, held a cream tea in the Y Centre, with live music from the shows.

Light classical music was provided by Daniel Pugh Bevan (piano and bassoon), Lucy Pugh-Bevan (flute) and Alex Hunt (clarinet and piano), all of whom gave their services free for the afternoon.

This proved a splendid occasion for those who prefer being out during the daytime, enjoying a convivial atmosphere with excellent refreshments.

Catering was in the hands of Janice Parkinson, a trustee of the YMCA, whose team of volunteers served and looked after all comers with diligence and humour.

A photographic exhibition by David Swidenbank of Porthcawl's independent shopkeepers was viewed and enjoyed. This fascinating presentation of local shops is well worth seeing and will be on view in the Y Centre until the first week in September.

The money raised on this occasion was added to that already raised in past weeks and £700 was sent to Y Care International. This sum will be matched pound for pound by the ODA through the UK Aid Match to help young people in West Africa recover from the ebola crisis and start to rebuild their lives.

The funds of Y Care International also assist young volunteers wishing to devote a period of their lives to those in need or distress.

Porthcawl YMCA is very pleased to assist with these programmes in this way and is grateful to those who gave their time in raising the funds, whether by volunteering, or attending the events.

JOHN BERRY
President of Porthcawl YMCA

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Cefn Cribwr £495,500

An attractive cottage, with mature gardens, pasture land and ground extending to approximately 4 acres and enjoying some spectacular, far reaching views. Cefn Farm includes a substantial block of stables and should appeal to equestrian enthusiasts. The accommodation includes a wealth of character features and briefly includes 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility, shower room, 3 sizeable bedrooms, a bathroom and a spacious landing with potential to create a 4th bedroom. EPC Rating - F.

NEW PRICE

Cowbridge £565,000

Deceptively spacious house with well presented accommodation on 3 floors including 3 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room and 5 double bedrooms, family bathroom and an en-suite. Gardens. Double garage. Distant views over town and countryside and within walking distance of Cowbridge town centre. EPC Rating – D.

Cowbridge £575,000

Character detached house set within pretty mature gardens. The accommodation includes living room, sitting room, dining room, a garden room, study area, kitchen/diner, utility room, cloakroom/WC, 4 bedrooms, an en-suite shower room, separate shower room and family bathroom. Double garage and workshop. EPC Rating - E.

NEW

Bridgend £220,000

A traditional, semi-detached house, in the popular residential area of Ewenny Rd, Bridgend, within level walking distance of the town centre. Well proportioned accommodation comprising 2 living rooms, kitchen/dining room, downstairs cloakroom 3 bedrooms and 2 shower rooms. Front and rear garden. EPC Rating - D.

NEW

Graig Penllyn £269,950

Spacious detached bungalow with planning permission to create a house with 3 reception rooms plus 4 double bedrooms. The existing accommodation includes 2 double bedrooms, lounge, kitchen/dining room, bathroom and utility. Open views over a long front garden and across the village playing fields. Attached garage and a stone-built garage/store with consent for conversion. EPC Rating - E.

St Athan £525,000

An imposing detached residence, comprehensively and stylishly refurbished and superbly appointed with accommodation including 3 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 6 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. UPVC double glazed and gas central heating. Twin garage. Large, mature rear garden which provides an attractive setting. EPC Rating – E.

NEW

Llanmaes £415,000

Large detached house with well proportioned accommodation including lounge, conservatory, dining room, study, kitchen-breakfast room, a large utility room and cloakroom/WC, 4 double bedrooms, plus a family bathroom. Driveway parking and integral, double garage. Lawned front garden and a sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating - E.

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95-year-old woman had four hour-plus wait for ambulance

A 95-year-old woman, who fell over, suffering a gashed elbow and head wound, had to wait over four hours for an ambulance to arrive.

by GEM REPORTER

Mrs Marjorie Rowe, a resident at Springbank Nursing Home in the town, suffered a fall in her room at 5.20pm on Thursday, August 13.

Her son David told The GEM: "It happened at teatime. She gashed her elbow and was bleeding from a head wound.

"The care by the staff at Springbank was exemplary – one nurse stayed for an extra four hours to look after her."

Staff members managed to put a mattress under Mrs Rowe to make her comfortable. There were concerns she might have broken her shoulder.

After three-quarters of an hour, the staff called the Ambulance Service again and were told an ambulance was on its way. As minutes became hours, they made further calls.

David said: "The home phoned me at 6.30pm to let me know what had happened. At 7pm, I phoned back to find out which hospital she had gone to. She still hadn't left. I was desperately worried because she is 95 years old. It finally arrived at 10pm. She was taken to the University Hospital of Wales where they dressed her elbow. The head wound had stopped bleeding."

Mrs Rowe also had a brain scan and an x-ray on her arm – fortunately, she had broken nothing, but had experienced bad bruising.

'FRUSTRATING'

At around 3am, a doctor said she could return to Barry, but she actually arrived back at Springbank in a 'non-emergency' ambulance at 10am.

The Rowe family say it was a "terribly frustrating" experience and have asked local MP Alun Cairns to look into the matter.

Mr Cairns described what happened to Mrs Rowe as "a deeply troubling case" that had caused Marjorie and her family a tremendous amount of distress.

"The drivers and paramedics are performing in difficult circumstances, but they appear to be having to contend with serious operational issues.

"There are obvious problems in reaching patients in an acceptable time period, and I am concerned that scrapping the targets will simply mask the problem. I wrote to Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust chief executive Tracy Myhill recently, regarding another case in Llantwit Major for a full explanation of the incident, and I will be doing the same in the case of Mrs Rowe.

"I was told then that the service would improve. I don't think it is acceptable for a lady at any age, never mind 95 years old, to be kept waiting for almost five hours and then be kept away from her new home all night."

Bob Tooby, the Welsh Ambulance Service's head of operations for the Cardiff and Vale area, said: "We'd like to extend our sincere apologies to Mrs Rowe, who no doubt had a painful and anxious wait for an ambulance.

"We completely appreciate that Mr Rowe has questions and concerns about what happened with his mother on that occasion and, therefore, we would urge Mr Rowe to contact us directly so that we can go through the matter in more detail.

"Until we're able to speak with Mr Rowe directly, we'd like to send Mrs Rowe our thoughts and very best wishes for a full recovery and reiterate our apologies once again."

CAERAU COMMUNITY PROJECT IS HELPED BY CHILDREN IN NEED

A COMMUNITY project in Caerau has received funding from Children in Need to help local youngsters.

The Noddfa Chapel Community Project will get a further three years funding of £102,548 from the charity to continue its work with children and young people.

Suzy Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative regional AM and a member of the Assembly's children, young people and education committee, met youth development worker Matthew Rowlands, whose post is funded by Children in Need, Noddfa chairman Coun Phil John and Coun Jennifer Terry.

Matthew explained that this was the second tranche of three-year funding from Children in Need and the money would ensure that the current project was developed.

Phil John, who ran the old Caerau Youth Club for many years, said that the former chapel was taken over by the community 15 years ago and has been developed into a hub for all sorts of activities.

The youth club is now based there and different groups use it, including those that build skills and help people get jobs.

Regular users include the Ultimate Dance Crew dance group and Caerau Boxing Club which has a ring and equipment on the first floor.

The youth club, which is now run by Noddfa, takes place at the centre two nights a week and activities for older people include a sewing club and a bingo club. Bridgend foodbank also holds a session every Tuesday. The Noddfa project also runs a second youth club at Nantyffyllon Library.

Suzy Davies said: "Again, it's a great example of communities taking the initiative to overcome the challenges they face. They are focussing on giving youngsters from what is, sadly, still a deprived area, life skills like cooking and looking after your health and wellbeing more generally.

"In a part of Wales with a high level of chronic illness, this is important work. Their main target group is five to 19-year-olds.

"The more young people who are healthy and confident, the better their chances of being ambitious and believing that have an influence over their own life chances.

"They also help young people improve relationships with their peers and work hard to raise aspiration by improving basic skills and instilling confidence and motivation.

"I also visited the market garden, which is a separate project, but meshes in nicely with the concept of growing, cooking and eating healthy food.

"Project officer Matthew Rowlands also runs the BMX club in Caerau which uses the cycle track provided under a different scheme.

"With all of this going for it, Caerau is a vibrant community so it is pleasing that a national charity like Children in Need has recognised the calibre of the work being done here."

Intrepid cyclists ride out to raise funds for hospital

ON Sunday, August 16, a band of intrepid cyclists set out from the top of Caerau – to raise funds for Maesteg Hospital.

After calling at the Blaenllynfi Hotel to pick up their rider numbers and directions, they made their way along the cycle track, sniffing out clues to enable them to answer some tricky quiz questions along the way, and ended up at the Garth Inn in Maesteg, where a delicious barbecue awaited them.

Many thanks go to Karen and Colin from the Garth Inn, who organised a fantastic raffle, and our 'chef for the day', Darren, who cooked up a storm! Thanks also to the band who provided the entertainment.

The event was organised by Steve Jones from Bridgend Road, a member of the Maesteg Hospital League of Friends, and it is hoped that a substantial sum will be raised for the hospital.

A number of pubs and clubs allowed a bucket collection to be made, and many thanks go to the Blaenllynfi Hotel, the Elderbush, the Masons Arms and the Crown Inn for their generous help.

A big thank you also goes to the children of Garth Primary School, who drew fabulous posters to advertise the event.

Many thanks to all the riders, and all those who helped out on the day.

LYNDA WILLIAMS,
Secretary, Maesteg Hospital League of Friends.

VJ Day is remembered in Kenfig Hill and Pyle

CounPauline James (vice chair), Allan John, Eileen Peakman, Michael Kearn, Kay John and Gina Hooper (chair).

MEMBERS of Pyle Community Council gathered at the Cenotaph in Kenfig Hill to commemorate the cessation of hostilities at the end of World War Two.

Wreaths were laid for both VJ Day and VE Day.

Mobile library offers web access

AS well as collecting a book, residents can now step on board Bridgend county borough's mobile library service for advice on using a computer and completing forms online.

New digital equipment is enabling residents to use the internet on the mobile libraries to answer any queries they have, pay bills and carry out other online tasks such as internet banking. Residents can also access their favourite magazine online for free if they are signed up to the library service.

The mobile library service provides a wide range of books for adults and children, audio books, DVDs and information sources and can also provide large print books, while it has a stair lift for wheelchair users.

Any of the 350,000 books in libraries throughout Bridgend county borough can be reserved free of charge and delivered by the mobile library. Residents are able to sign up when they visit their local stop, if they aren't already a library member.

For Blaengarw residents who currently use the mobile service, a new stop is being introduced. The library will visit The Strand in Blaengarw at 9.45am – 10.45am today (Thursday, August 27) and will return every three weeks.

The cabinet member for adult social care, health and wellbeing, Coun Phil White said: "The mobile libraries which serve our communities are a great help to residents who aren't able to make it to a library branch.

"In particular, it enables people who may have mobility issues or difficulties with transport to use the libraries' services. The new laptop and internet facilities are a brilliant addition."

To view the timetable for your nearest mobile library stop, visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries. If you are housebound and would like to learn more about the libraries book-link service, which can deliver books to you at home, call 01656 754800 to find out more.

Help for Talbot Centre

THE Talbot Community Centre is "thrilled" after the new Asda store in Pyle offered them a £300 donation towards its integration project.

The centre was nominated and the donation arranged by the store's community life champion, Claire Davis.

The Talbot Community Centre is a former Miner's Institute and a true community centre, as it is owned and run by the local community, for the community and many of the people involved are volunteers.

Claire commented: "The centre offers a great variety of activities for locals of all ages, from street dance and Zumba clubs to coffee mornings and sewing classes.

"It's great having a local community centre that so many of our customers use regularly. This donation will benefit all classes and clubs that run from the centre."

Cheryl Butcher of Talbot Community Centre said: "We have been very lucky this year with fundraising events to help make all the changes that we need to complete the integration of the Talbot and the Rees halls. Our thanks go to Asda and everyone who has contributed time, effort, money or gifts to the centre."

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Family Notices

THOMAS
Caroline *(née Lambert)*

Passed away suddenly, but peacefully, on August 17 surrounded by her loving family. Much loved wife of Alan, devoted mother of Debbie and Dawn, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Caroline will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service on Friday August 28, 2015, in Rosemount (Co-operative) Funeral Home Chapel of Rest, Bridgend at 1pm, followed by interment in Laleston Cemetery at 2pm. Flowers are welcome.

All further enquiries to Rosemount Funeral Home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend CF31 3AP. Tel: 01656 653156.

FEAR
Marion Gwladys (SRN)

(Formerly of Ackland Road, Bridgend)

Peacefully on August 16 at her home in Pavillion Court, Porthcawl, Marion, much loved aunty of Jonathan, Julie, Alison and Paul, will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at Margam Crematorium on Friday, September 4 at 11.30am.

Whitchurch
Donald John (Don)

Suddenly but peacefully on August 18 at Llandough Hospital, Donald John (Don), aged 84 years of Barry. Retired councillor and ex-mayor of Barry Town. Dearly loved husband of Christina.

Don will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Tuesday, September 1. Service in the chapel at 1pm, afterwards cremation at Barry Crematorium. No flowers by family request. Black tie not requested.

MORTIMER
Marjorie Estelle *(née Gully)*

Peacefully on August 24 at her home in Llantrithyd, Marjorie, beloved wife of the late Len, mother of Nigel, grandmother of Charlotte and Richard, a loving great grandmother and stepmother of John.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday September 4, service 10.45am at Llantrithyd Church, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 12 noon. Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, to The Dogs Trust c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

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Family Notices

HANLON
George (Tatty)

Suddenly but peacefully on August 23 at Llandough hospital, Tatty, well known for his time as a taxi driver and loyal member of Cadoxton Cons Club. Devoted husband to Margaret, much loved dad of Sian, Karen and father-in-law to John, loving grandad of David, Liam and Gemma.

Tatty will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at the private funeral home of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until the service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Friday, September 4 at 2pm. Immediate family flowers only please, donations if desired can be made at the service or at Tatty's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk to Vale Plus, Barry. By request, a hint of blue to be worn as part of funeral attire.

All enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis on 01446 407962.

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Mulooly cooly lands Brynhill title with consistent display!

THE club championship day at Brynhill Golf Club was another fabulous day of golf.

Steady patient golf claimed a victory for Matthew Mulooly over Scott Bowman. Scott has appeared in 12 club championship finals and has won seven times.

The weather was perfect for the occasion and the course was presented in pristine condition by Iain Grant and his staff. There were many spectators gathered on the first tee waiting for the finalists to tee off.

A visit by retired president, Peter Hayman, was much appreciated by the finalists and spectators. Keith Atkinson, the club president, and wife Brenda followed the matches all day and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

It was a nip and tuck round which ended all square on the 18th hole. In the afternoon round, Matthew's metronomic consistency gradually wore down Scott's dogged resistance.

Matthew went 4up after the 10th; at the 14th Matthew retained a 3-hole lead until eventually winning the match on the 16th hole.

The caddies were Sam Preston for Matt Mulooly and Huw Wigley for Scott Bowman.

The club captain Rhys Jones refereed the match which was played fairly and in the true spirit of golf.

The captain said it was an honour to referee a match between two great golfers.

On the same day there were three other very important matches.

The Ernest Williams match was played between Wayne Adams, with his caddie Richard Bond , and Craig Balchin and his caddie Aaron Smith.

This match teed off after the club championship and was a fantastic game.

The Ernest Williams match.

The Hugh Howell match.

The club championship match.

The Chief Buck Rabbit match.

Wayne had to give Craig six shots and Wayne made the quote of the day going down the seventh fairway, when he asked if Craig had a shot on the hole; when the answer was yes, given by the referee John Giles, Wayne asked when was Craig going to give him a shot!

Craig won the first hole after a fantastic second shot from the trees to the green and was 3up after scoring a birdie on the sixth.

Craig stayed 3up until the eighth, then Wayne pulled back two holes. The match was steady but exciting with Craig 3up after 14.

At the 15th, Craig hit a monstrous drive and a second shot to the green. Wayne put his second shot into the bunker, and the match finished with Craig winning 4 and 3.

The golf was superb to watch - John Giles said the level of golf was amazing and the caddies were exceptional.

The Hugh Howell (Midway) match was between Cael Pemberthey with Dan Williams as caddie, and Mike Bird with caddie Simmon Pringle; the referee was Matthew Thomas.

It was another hard-fought match with a nervous start by both players, Mike was 1up after six.

On the 13th, Mike played a second ball off the tee after losing his first ball and ended up four on the green.

Cael was on in two and took the hole gaining a 1up advantage.

Cael was 3up after 15 holes and with pressure mounting, both players were wayward and had to play a provisional ball off the 16th tee.

Both balls were found and Cael sealed the deal, winning 3 and 2.

The Chief Buck Rabbit was played between Bradley Dodd and Clive Blake. It was a close match all the way with a fantastic camaraderie between the players.

The referee Hilary West was impressed with the level of golf and commended both players.

The game finished on the 17th green showing what a close contest took place; caddies were Scott Nelson for Clive Blake and Colin Lewis for Bradley Dodd.

JK

Pre-season win for Cowbridge

ON a sweltering Saturday afternoon Cowbridge entertained Cefn Cribwr RFC for a pre-season run out on the Police Field.

Both sides provided squads of about 30 players and the afternoon was split into three 30 minute sessions. It was great to see a mixture of youth and experience for Cowbridge and despite the oppressive conditions both sides contributed to an open game with good rugby throughout.

Cowbridge finally ran out winners 14-10 but it could have been a lot more with many opportunities created throughout the game.

Coaches Leigh Davies and Dan Williams and captain Huw Lougher will have been pleased with the performance and with several key players unavailable the prospects for the coming season look bright.

The first league match is at home against Tonyrefail on Saturday, September 5, preceded by the youth against Rumney in the first round of the Cardiff and District Cup. It was hoped that both games would be played on the Athletic Field but the WRU have instructed all league games to kick off at 1.30pm on that Saturday, so the youth game will now take place on the Police Field.

It was good to see Rhod Walker at the club on Saturday following his injury a few weeks ago and he is well on the road to recovery. Rhys Price is also progressing well following knee surgery a few weeks ago - hopefully both will be back to full fitness soon.

Finally, captain Huw Lougher will be marrying Anna on September 5. We wish them both all the very best for the future.

RV/RK

Master Paul Jones with the team.

Llantwit fighters gain valuable experience

MASTER Paul Jones of Llantwit Major/Wales Tae Kwon Do travelled up to the Lee Valley Stadium in London to the 20th British International Championships with a small contingent to compete in this high level competition.

The team included the Commonwealth Welsh team bronze medallists Ellie and Ruth May, Adam Williams, also a Welsh team member, and our latest edition to the team, Bethany Burt.

Adam was up against a far more experienced fighter who he had fought last year and was beaten decisively. This time it was much closer with Adam just missing out on knocking out his opponent in the dying seconds by millimetres. A loss but huge improvements were made.

Ellie May was up against by far the shortest player she had ever fought, who was very smart in breaking angles to avoid Ellie's long legs. Ellie struggled to pin the girl down, who was clever in picking up odd points close in. A loss but a great learning experience on competing against an unusual style and size player.

Bethany Burt was in her first Olympic style competition and was very nervous but once the match began she tried to control her opponent, but the girl had a good defence and the second round ended a draw, meaning they would go to a final round with a golden point winning shot (the first scoring shot wins).

After a cagey start, Beth managed to get a lovely head shot to win the match, putting her in the final against one of the top fighters in the country at her weight.

The match started with each player cancelling the other out using very similar techniques, each getting a odd point. As the second round was coming to an end at 3-3, it looked like it would go to the golden point round again when the player caught Beth with a body shot in the last two seconds to win the match. Very unlucky for Beth but a great first competition and a well-earned silver medal.

Ruth May was up and was raring to go. She was again up against a good player who was a attacking fighter but Ruth didn't panic and listened to her coach, picking the girl off with some good tactical shots while defending well. and winning the match 9-6, putting her in the final.

Ruth was against a Norwegian player who she and Paul had watched win her semi final by stoppage in a very aggressive manner.

Putting a quick game plan together, the match started as expected with Ruth's opponent attacking hard, and Ruth defended excellently. It was a good fight to watch, with both fighters nullifying the other all the way to the end of the second round with the score 0-0.

A golden point round would decide the winner. It started as the previous rounds had gone, with both looking for the clean shot and it could have gone either way, but this time the Norwegian got the score she needed to win the match. A great fight and a silver for Ruth - next time!

A long day but well worth it for the team overall especially seeing the relative inexperience of them on the whole. The next competition will soon be upon us.

If you want to know more about the Olympic style of Tae Kwon Do, please contact us via mail@llantwitmajortaekwondo.com, mail@walestaekwondo.com or through the website: llanwitmajortaekwondo.co.uk.

PJ

PENARTH HOCKEY CLUB MAKE THEIR LONG AWAITED RETURN

PENARTH Hockey Club will make a long-awaited return to an old stomping ground this weekend as it inaugurates the new Astroturf facility at Stanwell Comprehensive School.

After a long absence from the town – which took in a two-decade nomadic wander between venues as far afield as Leckwith, Mountain Ash and Barry – the club now has a new permanent home following the concerted effort to build a state-of-the-art artificial surface at Stanwell.

Many years after a thwarted first attempt to bring hockey back to the school, which used to play host to the Penarth teams on its Red-Gra pitches prior to the game's worldwide switch to artificial turf, preparation work for the sand-based facility finally began before Christmas, with the finishing touches added by South Wales Sports Grounds in the last few weeks in readiness for the grand opening over the August bank holiday weekend.

The new pitch will be inaugurated by a game between a Penarth Hockey Club select XI and a Stanwell Old Boys team making its competitive debut after forming for the occasion.

The ceremonial opening will be performed by former Welsh Hockey Association and current PHC president, Alan Carter, who also has long-standing links with Stanwell, where he spent much of his teaching career before becoming a school governor.

Another stalwart member of the Stanwell staff, former international umpire David Gale, will officiate the game alongside PHC vice-president Colin Crayford who, like Carter, has held several notable positions in the sport, including technical official for the International Hockey Federation and executive officer of the Welsh Hockey Umpires Association.

Although exact line-ups remain fluid, both sides are expected to feature players who have earned international honours at both junior and senior levels, while the Stanwell side will bring back pupils from the past 40 years, including some of those who took the school to South Wales and Welsh Cup honours in the 1970s and 1980s.

Securing a pitch within a stone's throw of the club's spiritual home at Penarth Athletic Club is a key part of new chairman Nick Pratt's ambitious '20:20 Vision'.

The recent acquisition of coach Ben Croxall kickstarted the programme, which not only aims to return PHC to four senior sides and re-establish strong youth and veteran set-ups, but also to propel the club back amongst Wales' hockey elite.

"Penarth Hockey Club are eternally grateful to the headmaster of Stanwell School, Derek Jones, as well as the governors, Clare Kynaston and all at the school whose foresight and persistence have resulted in the establishment of this fantastic facility, not only for the students of Stanwell School but for the wider community and, of course, Penarth Hockey Club," Pratt said.

"This pitch, together with the resurgence of hockey as a sport at the school, can only serve to strengthen the links between Stanwell and Penarth Hockey Club that have existed for many decades, and be a catalyst for the club's '20:20 Vision' of becoming one of the top four clubs in Wales again.

"Personally, I am delighted to be a part of this opening event, even though I will be wearing many hats - chairman of Penarth Hockey Club, captain of the Stanwell Old Boys team and former captain of one of the most successful school sides of the 1970s.

"I was one of the last to play on the old Red-Gra and one of the last to play on the grass at the nearby Athletic Club, so it is an absolute delight and privilege to be amongst the first to play on the new pitch - and to be coming home after so many years away."

Following the ceremonial opening, Stanwell will begin life as Penarth Hockey Club's official home as the first XI continue their pre-season preparations by hosting Cardiff & Met on September 5.

Saturday's activities will commence with the official opening at 1.30pm with the game between Penarth and Stanwell scheduled to start at 2pm. Post-match celebrations will continue at Penarth Athletic Club. Current, former and prospective players are encouraged to attend in support of both PHC and Stanwell.

Pre-season training currently takes place at Penarth Athletic Club between 7.30pm and 8.30pm on Wednesdays, and will continue for juniors and seniors under lights at Stanwell once the season gets underway.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact either player-coach Ben Croxall (b_croxall20@yahoo.co.uk) or club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

CL

Saints are off to flyer after scoring seven!

THE Saints were off to a flyer on the first day of the Premier Division as they fired seven goals past Penarth.

Despite conceding an early penalty, Saints put Penarth to the sword with goals coming from a Jordan Mortimore hat-trick, a double from Dean Cleave and one each from Sean Flynn and Tony Pugh.

Saints started the brighter and looked to engineer an early opening, with Courtney Goodwin heading a Reece Lewis cross straight at the keeper and Josh Morgan saw the ball in the back of the net but was ruled offside.

Penarth looked to break and saw an effort saved by the legs of Paul Lucas. Saints possibly should have taken the lead not long after – Lewis' free kick was headed back across goal by Dean Cleave and Joe Laing stooped to head the ball but unfortunately put it over the bar.

Penarth soon punished Saints and broke away, their forward brought down by Nicky Cox and a spot kick awarded. The home side dispatched the penalty and led.

St Athan pushed for an equaliser, stepped up the pressure and Jordan Mortimore drilled the ball across the goal but Richie Humphreys was inches away at full stretch.

The equaliser finally came minutes later. Lewis' corner was whipped in, Cox's header was brilliantly saved and subsequently cleared. The resulting throw was sent long into the box by Cox, Mortimore controlled, turned, stabbed the ball across goal and Cleave powered a header in.

Saints were looking to command and Cleave was finding acres of space in the middle. It was Cleave's ball over the top to Mortimore that saw the striker outmuscle the defender and unleash an unstoppable strike past the keeper to give St Athan the lead.

St Athan were in the ascendancy now and Cleave's through ball was missed by the defender, Mortimore was onto it and squared it to James Austin but the midfielder saw his side-footed effort crash back off the underside of the bar. Saints went in at the break and in control but with a feeling they could take the performance up a few levels.

St Athan picked up in the second half where they left off and Mortimore picked the ball up on the right hand side. The captain skipped past three and finished past the keeper to give the away side a two-goal cushion.

Sean Flynn and Tony Pugh were introduced and made an impact.

Cleave and Laing were now in full control of the centre of the park and Saints were unstoppable. Lewis exchanged passes with Austin and whipped a cross from the left to the far post where Flynn headed in to kill the game.

Mortimore soon had his hat-trick as Cleave was once again the provider as his through ball put in the talisman to calmly slot past the home keeper for his treble.

It was another Reece Lewis free kick that was expertly dispatched for Mortimore to head back across goal for Cleave to head in his second of the game.

St Athan were playing some fine football now and carving their opponents open. The seventh goal came from a sweeping move that ended up with Flynn leaving the left back for dead. He saw Pugh's clever movement and pulled the ball back for him to tap in.

A fantastic start to the season for St Athan, scoring seven goals away from home.

Team: Lucas, Goodwin, Lewis, Cox, Humphreys, Cleave, Laing, Austin, Wilkin, Mortimore, Morgan. Substitute: Flynn, Pugh, L.Lewis.

ST ATHAN B 3, BARRY ATHLETIC B 4

The seconds were denied at the death in a thrilling opening day contest.

Veteran Colin George was the hero for Saints as the midfielder hit a fine hat trick to continue his fine form from pre-season. George's hat trick saw Saints into a 3-1 lead but Athletic pulled one back – but there was then a moment of controversy.

Athletic were awarded a debatable penalty and proceeded to convert from the spot. Athletic seconds used this momentum to go on and snatch the winner.

A big comeback for Athletic B and Saints' seconds will feel hard done by not to have taken anything from the game after being in a commanding position.

Team: MacDonald, Wolfe, Richards, Cleave, J.Howells, George, Fairchild, Young, Geldard, Stock, C.Howells. Substitutes: Pope, Hughes, Keen, Morgan.

The club thanks the fans who travelled home and away to support us in this new season and also our host of sponsors. Owens Motor Services in Llandow joins the club as our main sponsor this year alongside much valued support from Llantwit Valet & Car Wash, Green Future Landscaping and The Four Bells Inn, St Athan.

HD

Teresa Goodwin

Teresa is on target at championships

ON August 3/7, the European Archery Championships took place at Kil in Sweden.

The week-long event was attended by many archers from across the continent; four archers went to represent Wales and had a fantastic week bringing home a gold and two silver medals.

Teresa Goodwin, chairperson of Llantwit Major Archers, had an exceptional week. For her first European Championships, shooting in the female Recurve division, Teresa brought home two Welsh records, a high achievement award (Bow Masters) and second place in her shooting division.

Teresa is looking forward to a promising archery career and is planning to attend many more competitions in the future, including the World Championships in Australia.

TG

Captain's day with the Barry Central ladies

The Barry Central ladies enjoyed captain's day!

CAPTAIN Barbara would like to thank her wonderfully loyal ladies team for their efforts during the past season.

She commented: "We did not win every match played, but (and it's a very big but) the spirit in which you entered every game, even when we were short, was inspirational.

"We also had fun - well done my girls, you did me proud.

"Special thanks to the 'Rah Rah Girls', our staunch supporters, we all appreciate your presence - love and thanks."

If anyone would care to join our happy band, please contact our secretary, Jennifer Morgan, on 01446 412976 - we'd love to meet you. **BB**

Matthew impresses at tournament

WHILE many players take a rest from competitive chess in the summer, some of the Barry players take part in a number of different tournaments.

Matthew Parry has been particularly busy of late playing in the third round of the 4NCL held in Birmingham. He played in the open section and all five of his opponents were rated in excess of 2000 and included one GM.

Matthew clearly played very well and returned home with a 50 per cent record. He then played three rounds in the Manchester Open Congress and again all his opponents were rated over 2000 and again he returned with a 50 per cent record. Matthew picked up 41 ratings points from these two competitions.

At the 4NCL he was joined by our other Matthew, Matthew Davies. Matthew played in the major section and could have anticipated returning with an unbeaten record. However he recorded 3.5 points from his five games, losing 10 ratings points along the way.

Last week saw the Welsh Chess Union (WCU) play host to the International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF). As part of this meeting a match was played between the ICCF and the WCU. 15 matches took place and included in the WCU team was ex-Barry Chess Club member Bill Hewitt.

The ICCF team won the match by 8.5 to 6.5 with Bill contributing one of our points by defeating F Baumbach.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

Llantwit A team are looking good

ONCE again our midweek game, on August 20, was cancelled by the opposition, Kenfig and Pyle.

We could have done with a run out midweek, as we were entertaining fourth-placed Barry Central on August 22, in which we needed as many points as possible to see off our nearest rivals, Ynysybwl.

Thanks to a fine all round performance we managed 12 points out of a possible 14. This leaves us needing a minimum of six points from our last game away to Cadoxton, to secure promotion.

Against Barry Central, after 10 ends Llantwit were leading by just five shots with Graham Merchant's boys having a very close encounter, being just two shots up.

Mike Adams' four once again turned in a fine performance, although Mike admits that he was not at his best in this game, but they were 11-11 after 10 ends.

Eric Hacker's rink, although being 4-0 up after three ends, found the experienced Ted Hudd a handful, ably supported by his grandson Owen David. They were given a good start by the front two and after 10 ends, Llantwit were 14-4 down.

But with the fight which has been shown by the whole of the Llantwit side this season, they eventually caught up and passed the Central four, scoring on the last four ends. This included an eight on the the 18th end to run out winners 24-16.

We welcomed back Keith Alexander on Saturday, skipping his rink of Geoff Timms, who is improving every week and turned in a particularly good performance, backed up by Mike Jones, who also had a very good first 10 ends.

The rink was up by 14-2 after 10, but only managed to score four shots to Central's 11 in the remaining 11 ends, holding on to win 18-13.

The rinks were: M. Harmon, J. O'Brien, P. Toomey, G. Merchant 25-13; G.Times, M.Jones, J.Ball, K. Alexander 18-13; C. Williams, A. Horgan, K. Williams, E. Hacker 24-16; and A. Vincent, G. Snowdon, J. Nixon, M. Adams 22-24.

Well done lads, one more fine performance on Saturday will see us safely in second place, and promotion. **WJB**

Surprise win for bowlers

LLANTWIT MAJOR men's bowls team played their penultimate league game on Saturday when they visited Taffs Well.

After two poor performances in their previous games, Llantwit came into this game not brimming with confidence against one of the top teams. However, they earned a magnificent win, collecting 12 points, 82-74.

Graham Jones' rink were 12 shots down after only five ends and they were still trailing by 13 shots after 12. A terrific comeback in the second half of the match, collecting eight shots on the final four ends, gave them a win by one shot.

Charles Hiscock's rink were also behind by nine shots after four ends; a five by Llantwit on the next end reduced the deficit and a good spell by Llantwit saw them score 10 shots over six ends to put them in front by five.

A six by Taffs Well on the 17th end drew them level but Llantwit scored another five shots over the final ends to win by four shots, another example of a good fightback.

Steve Booker's rink were runaway winners, leading throughout the match and restricting Taffs Well to only six winning ends.

Llantwit scored 13 shots over the last nine ends to coast home by 19 shots; this rink claimed the double over Taffs Well.

Neville Young's rink started well, holding the lead until the 17th end with the rink outbowling the opposition. Then the wheels came off with the Taffs Well front men finding their touch, putting in some good bowls around the jack.

Llantwit failed to score on the final six ends, going down heavily by 16 shots.

NY

Vale golfer selected for top junior event

THERE are three Wales players in the Great Britain and Ireland team for Europe's top junior golf team event for the first time in the modern format of the competition.

The trio picked in the nine man team for the Jacques Leglise Trophy between GB and Ireland and the Continent of Europe are Ben Chamberlain, Padeswood and Buckley, Tim Harry, Vale Resort, and Thomas Williams, Wrexham, for the match at Royal Dornoch.

Harry was part of last year's victorious GB and I team, which has been played for annually since 1977 between Europe's top junior golfers.

"This is great recognition for the quality of young players coming through in Wales, for us to provide a third of the team is unheard of," said Golf Union of Wales director of performance Ben Waterhouse.

"It is testament to the changes in the coaching structure over the last few years that there are players of such quality coming through."

Millwood bowling news round-up

MILLWOOD welcomed Gelligaled on Saturday for the most important game for these two sides of the fixture list, as Gelligaled (lying top) were only four points ahead of Millwood (in second), ahead of Ynysyngharad (eight points behind).

A good win was crucial to both sides in the fight for promotion, and so it turned out to be.

With the first five ends completed, Millwood had a three-shot lead at 19-16, which after the 10th end had increased to a 10-shot lead at 42 to 32.

Into the third quarter of the game, they started to pile on the pressure, for at the 15th end Millwood had a comfortable 28-shot margin, 69–41.

Gelligaled could not respond to the fine bowling from the Millwood players, and after the 21st, the final score was a very gratifying 37-shot win for Millwood, 95–58, with a maximum winning points total (14-0).

This was just the result that was needed, and depending on the Ynysyngharad and Thomastown result, Millwood should be assured of promotion! Eyes will be firmly fixed on this forthcoming result.

A word must be said for the performance of all Millwood players, especially Brian Crockford's rink for their 22-shot win - well done everyone.

Our final game is this Sunday against Ynysyngharad – no time to rest as we need another good result, here's hoping.

JH

Great Welsh steeplechase jockeys - Dick Francis

THIS week's subject from Brian Lee's out-of-print book, *Welsh Steeplechase Jockeys* (Cwmned Press 1993) is Dick Francis.

With the war years taking their toll of a number of racecourses throughout the country, the closure of Cardiff's Ely Racecourse saw the end of an era, as far as Welsh steeplechasing was concerned.

There have been, however, a number of good Welsh horsemen since the Second World War who have carried on the great tradition of Welsh National Hunt racing. None more so than Dick Francis who was champion jockey in the 1953-54 season when he rode 76 winners.

This unassuming and kindly man, whose racing thrillers topped the best seller lists for years, and who was born in 1920, told me, many years ago now... "I was born and bred in Pembrokeshire, although I did move from there with my family at quite a young age before moving to Berkshire.

"My father Vincent Francis had been stable jockey to Lort Phillips, whose stable was situated at Lawrenny, and he rode at the same time as the Anthony brothers, and in the early days of the Rees brothers. Indeed, my father's father, his grandfather, lived next door to Brychan Rees, a veterinary surgeon who attended the horses of David Harrison, the Tenby trainer. Brychan Rees was also the father of F B Rees (Dick) and L B Rees."

A former RAF pilot, after the war he rode for George Owen as an amateur – with considerable success. He rode his first winner at Bangor-on-Dee on *Wrenbury Tiger*, in a hunter chase in 1946.

Later that same day, he rode his second winner when *Blitz Boy* took the novices steeplechase.

When Dick turned professional, two years later, he was retained by Lord Bicester as second stable jockey to Irishman Martin Molony.

Dick was to become associated with some very good steeplechasers and these included *Finnure*, on whom he won the King George VI Steeplechase at Kempton Park, *Roimond* on whom he was runner-up in the Grand National, *Silver Fame, Crudwell* and, of course, *Devon Loch,* on whom he nearly won the 1956 Grand National.

Owned by the Queen Mother, *Devon Loch* must go down in racing history as the unluckiest loser ever.

After jumping the last fence in front of the eventual winner *ESB, Devon Loch (*still full of running) suddenly seemed to try and jump an imaginary obstacle, resulting in him slithering along the ground on his undercarriage just 20 yards or so from the winning post.

In four seasons, Dick carried the royal colours to success on 10 occasions, winning on those good performers *M'as-tu-vu, Double Star* and *Devon Loch*.

When the Welsh Grand National was first staged at Chepstow Racecourse in 1949, it was Dick who rode *Fighting Line* to victory.

Earlier that same year, he had had his first ride in the Grand National and finished runner-up on *Roimond* who was conceding 1st 4lb to the winner *Russian Hero* – whom Dick would have ridden had he not been retained by Lord Bicester to ride *Roimond*.

It was something of a coincidence then that the second time he won the Welsh Grand National was in 1956, the same year that he had almost won at Liverpool on *Devon Loch*.

On this occasion, he won on *Crudwell*, one of the most versatile horses in training. *Crudwell*, who was owned by Mr A Large and trained by Fred Cundell, set a record by winning 39 steeplechases, seven flat races and four hurdle events. *Crudwell* ran in 108 races and won 50 of them. And it was on *Crudwell* at Leicester that Dick was to ride into the winners' enclosure for the last time.

He was the leading jockey when a bad fall at Newbury put an end to his race riding career.

Had the war not delayed his riding career, he was 26 when he became a jockey - there is no telling how many winners he would have ridden. As it was, from a total of 2,305 rides he rode 345 winners.

One thing certain though is that during the 10 years he graced the scene, there were very few finer horsemen than Dick Francis.

Dick Francis OBE MBE died in the Cayman Islands in February 2010. During his raceriding career he had broken his nose five times, his skull twice, his arm, wrists, vertebrae on numerous occasions as well as his collarbone 12 times and suffered various other injuries.

He wrote, with the help of his wife Mary, 42 best selling racing novels, which were read all over the world.

However, he once said that "My only regret is not winning the Grand National."

He would have given up all his success and riches to have added his name to the list of Welshmen who have won the world's greatest Steeplechase.

Contact Brian Lee on 02920 736438.

Cadoxton bowlers just pipped against Abercynon

CADOXTON'S match at Abercynon decided whether promotion would be achieved or not; once again they were unable to finish, although they were in front until the penultimate end.

Throughout the game, each side had two winning and two losing rinks but the Cadoxton winners always had enough shots to cover the other two, until the lead was lost on the 20th end by two shots. It was still the same difference at the end.

Kelvin Chedgzoy, standing in as skip instead of the absent Roy Harding had a superb result with his rink. They failed to score on just six ends and led throughout to complete a 20-shot success.

John Jones skipped the other successful rink. After conceding a '4' on the first, they were soon in front and built a 25-8 shot lead by the 17th end. Unfortunately, that was the end of their lucrative ends and they conceded 11 shots on the final run in.

The other two rinks, skipped by Don Kuhnell and Howard Craven, were unable to stem the flow of regular shots against, and although they were covered for most of the game, their losses were eventually too much.

Scores: J Stacey, D Evans, G Davies, D Kuhnell 12–27; P Swannick, A Prince, P Ellis, K Chedgzoy 29 – 9; S Clarke, I Robertson, D Brook, J Jones 25 –19; W Craven, L Adams, D Jeffries, H Craven 9 –27. Final score: 75 – 82.

CADOXTON 'A' v YSTRAD MYNACH 'A' – CML7

The complete turn-out did not last long, for the Cadoxton 'A' side despite their win last week.

They were reduced to three players short again, for the visit of Ystrad Mynach 'A'.

They did produce one winning rink, a triple skipped by Howard Hellyar. The match was close throughout with the scores level on 1, 6, 8 and 9. Four winning singles on the final ends ensured the victory.

Alan Carpenter skipped a rink with the four players, and after 12 ends were close at 9-11, but a '6' and '4' took the chances away, which was eventually shattered with a '7' on the last.

David Fanning's triple was successful on the opening few ends but never come to terms, after a scoreless run during the following eight ends.

Dennis Hammond also started well with his triple, by taking a 3-1 advantage. By the 10th end there was just a two shot deficit. However eight shots were scored against during four more ends to squash any hopes.

Scores: R Cole, R Morris, D Fanning 12 – 22; G Garland, R Byrne, H Hellyar 16 – 14; S Clements, G Solomon, D Hammond 13 – 19; G Powell, J Smart, A Field, A Carpenter 11 – 32. Final score: 52 - 87.

Due the completion of the Munro Cup a friendly was arranged with Llantwit Major; however this was washed out with heavy rain. DK

James gets that gold feeling!

JAMES Savory of Barry *(pictured left)* recently returned from the World Games in Los Angeles with a silver medal for Sprint Kayaking.

Last weekend James competed in the first competition of the Badminton season for 2015/2016, this being the Four Nations Para Badminton competition which took place in the National Sport Wales Centre Cardiff.

With 50 + players taking part from all four home nations, James competed with his partner Stephen Davies from Wrexham in the men's doubles, winning the final and receiving a gold medal.

JS

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COTTRELL LADIES ENJOY AWAY TRIP

FOURTEEN Cottrell Park Golf Club ladies travelled across the bridge for their three days away at Bicester Golf and Country Club in Oxfordshire, which was organised by the ladies captain Helen Poole.

The golf course was suitable for all, quite flat but with the back nine more challenging.

On arrival, after coffee and bacon rolls, a team competition, best two out of three scores, was played. The winners were Patsie Smith, Helen Poole and Elinor Norris with 73 points.

Longest drive was won by Sian Lovell (Div 1) and Angela Padfield (Div 2); nearest the pin was Helen Poole.

The second day was an individual Stableford for the Lady Cottrella trophy which was won by Sian Lovell, vice captain, with 35 points. Longest drive went to Sian Lovell (Div 1), Jen Thomas (Div 2), and nearest the pin was Helen Poole.

The final day was a Waltz and Yellow ball competition; two teams returned with their yellow ball.

The longest drive for Div 1 was Helen Poole and Div 2 Jackie Wells, nearest the pin Helen Evans.

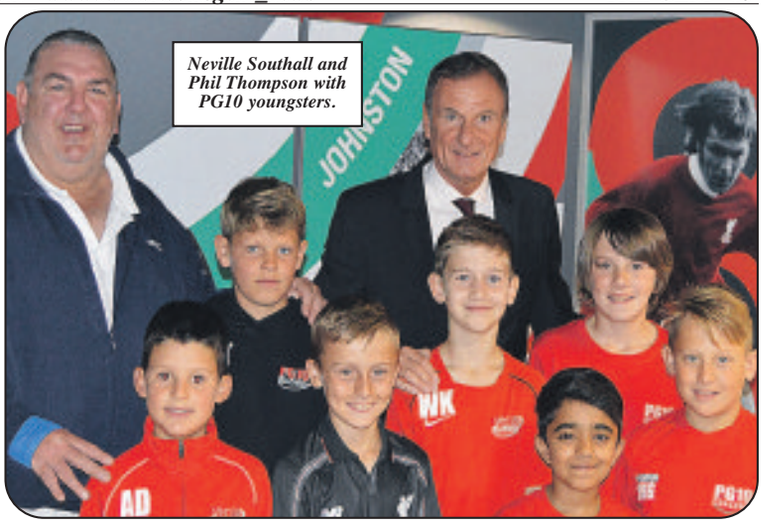
The highlight of the day was a hole in one by Jan Cosby, immediate past captain, which caused great delight and was a fitting finish to a lovely break.

The ladies enjoyed the hotel facilities, excellent food and a large spa.

Jan Cosby thanked Helen Poole for all her hard work and organisation, ably supported by Sian Lovell. All agreed they had a really good time.

CB

ABOVE: Jan Cosby and Helen Poole. RIGHT: Sian Lovell.



Neville Southall and Phil Thompson with PG10 youngsters.

PG10 meet Phil and Big Nev!

DURING the summer holidays children and young people from across Vale and Cardiff recently participated in a unique two day soccer camp with Premier League giants Liverpool FC and PG10.

On day one children where taught new skills and techniques by qualified UEFA PG10 coaches in a fun and safe environment in the Vale.

On day two children and young people visited Liverpool FC for a personal tour of the world famous Anfield stadium and the museum learning about the club's rich history, with Liverpool FC legend and Sky Sports pundit Phil Thompson

Thompson played for Liverpool 377 times and England 42 times and was also the Liverpool assistant manager. The children were inspired to hear of some of the stories from his playing and coaching career.

The children also viewed the Steven Gerrard football collection and enjoyed a Q and A with Thompson. Wales and Everton FC legend Neville Southall also attended the day inspiring the children throughout the day.

For more information on PG10 and its opportunities please email petegriff10@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.pg10coaching.co.uk.

PG

Barrivale bridge

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for August 18:

1st Debbie & Simon Richards 75.83%; 2nd Huw & Celia Thomas 54.17%; 3rd Jenny Vaughan & Denis Mottram 52.50%. Debbie and Simon Richards also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Romilly Bowls club Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

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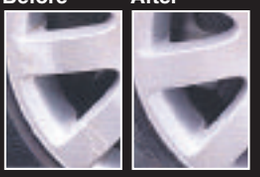

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Youth to the fore at Llandow Kart Club...

FAMILIAR faces on the top step of the podium was a feature of Llandow Kart Club's August round as the Welsh club moved into the second half of its championship campaign.

Despite the school holidays continuing to subdue entries across the board, the club introduced standing starts for all able classes, as well as staging the first of four events constituting its inaugural Bambino Challenge.

The racing was excellent throughout and, with no delays to the timetable, the drivers were rewarded with increased track time for the finals.

The new Bambino competition, which will run through to the end of the championship season in November, will count three rounds from four, with the winner being judged on the consistency of their lap times. Drivers will compete for the Richard Dowers Bambino Award, remembering the club's former secretary and keen supporter of the Bambino class.

Novice Oscar Blanchard marked himself out as a name to watch in the category after topping all four track sessions, edging out Llandow regular Nathan Browning in the process.

Ryley Price and another rookie, Ryan Smith, were left to contest third spot, with Price filling the position each time. All drivers showed improved times through the day and were duly presented with trophies for their efforts

The two Cadet classes were combined at this event, with the returning IAME field joining the Honda runners after missing July. Honda honours were shared between Ben Watson and July winner Axel Laflamme, but it was the latter who emerged on top in the final, beating the consistent Austin Maddocks to the flag by a couple of seconds.

Just as he had four weeks previously, Watson completed the Honda podium, but was separated from the top two on this occasion by IAME winner Thomas Nippers, who had duelled with Harry Yardley-Rose throughout the day.

Like Laflamme, Nippers opened out a two-second gap over his rival in the last race of the day, with Alexander Austin completing the podium. Honda novice Ellis Puleio was rewarded with driver of the day honours for his efforts.

After their close encounters last month, the battle between Junior Honda runners Alex Wilkins and Ben Cutler did not disappoint, the pair going head-to-head in each of their four races.

Wilkins took the heats 2-1, but it was Cutler who crossed the line first, by just a couple of tenths, in the final.

Despite the depth of talent on show, Ryan Edwards proved unbeatable in Junior TKM, claiming all three heats as well as the final. July winner Louis Beaven started the day as Edwards' closest challenger, taking second in heats one and two, but it was Yousuf Ashraf who claimed runners-up honours in the final, pushing Beaven back to third ahead of Jack Johns, who had been a top three finisher earlier in the day.

The class' only rookie, Adam Crofts-Davies took home the novice of the day award.

Like Edwards, Welsh champion Kristian Prosser proved unwilling to relinquish top spot in Senior Honda, seeing off a host of would-be challengers to remain unbeaten throughout the day.

Monty Gorringe claimed a brace of seconds from the heats, with Tom Ford taking the other, but it was Patrick Hill who came through to edge Gorringe for the runners-up spot in the final, with Ford ultimately finishing fourth.

Morgan Rose returned to the top of the Senior Rotax tree after missing out in July, and refused to allow anyone a look at P1 as he too claimed all four races on offer. Sam Morgan ran Rose close in the first two heats before the gap between the leader and the chasing pack increased as the event went on.

Rose eventually claimed the final by a little over three seconds, with Rob Ellis taking second spot from Scott Rose by a similar distance. Morgan's day, meanwhile, ended in frustration as he was forced to retire from the final after 10 laps.

Round eight of the Llandow Kart Club championship will take place on Sunday, September 20.

RESULTS

BAMBINO: 1. Oscar Blanchard (Wright), 2. Nathan Browning (Synergy), 3. Ryley Price (Haase), 4. Ryan Smith (Topkart); CADET HONDA: 1. Axel Laflamme (Zip), 2. Austin Maddocks (Project One), 3. Ben Watson (Project One); JUNIOR HONDA: 1. Ben Cutler (7Kart), 2. Alex Wilkins (7Kart); JUNIOR TKM: 1. Ryan Edwards (Tonykart), 2. Yousuf Ashraf (Tonykart), 3. Louis Beaven (Tonykart). SENIOR HONDA: 1. Kristian Prosser (7Kart), 2. Patrick Hill (Wright), 3. Monty Gorringe (7Kart); SENIOR ROTAX: 1. Morgan Rose (Tonykart), 2. Rob Ellis (Kosmic), 3. Scott Rose. Best novice: Adam Crofts-Davies (Junior TKM); driver of the day: Ellis Puleio (Cadet Honda).

CL

Rainbow Haze's Worcester win

ON AND OFF THE TURF WITH BRIAN LEE

FORMER Welsh winning point-to-pointer *Rainbow Haze*, trained by Phil Dando at Peterston-Super-Ely, was a 9-1 winner of the Startin Honda Handicap Hurdle at Worcester last week.

Ridden by Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft, aged 27, the nine-year-old homebred gelding won by a length from 10-1 chance Bob Lewis.

Earlier in the day, *Rainbow Haze*'s stable mate *Moontripper* had finished third behind the Evan Williams-trained *Roadie Joe* in the Startin Skoda Standard Open National Hunt Flat race.

Roadie Joe was partnered by Lewis Gordon and was a 20-1 outsider.

Other Welsh winners at the meeting were *Buachail Alainn* and *Dr Robin* who were both trained by Pembrokeshire's Peter Bowen and partnered by his son Sean Bowen.

At Stratford on Thursday *Panis Angelicus*, trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthin, was an easy winner of the Edward Brain Plant Hire Novices' Hurdle under leading jockey Richard Johnson, coming home 18 lengths ahead of *Almagest* trained at Penhow near Chepstow by Robert Stephens.

EVAN'S LONG TRIP PAYS OFF

Llancarfan's Evan Williams sent his Court Minstrel on a 430-mile trip to Perth last Saturday to contest the £12,512 Crabbie's Alcoholic Ginger Beer STV Appeal Summer Hurdle.

The eight-year-old bay gelding, owned by the Vale's Janet Davies, and ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, won by the shortest distance possible - a nose from Commisioned with the favourite Ittirad just a further head away in third place; Court Minstrel was a 6-1 chance.

Interest in taking over Scorpions

WALES Rugby League chairman Brian Juliff is delighted at the amount of interest shown in taking over South Wales Scorpions Rugby League Club.

The national governing body took over the Kingstone Press League 1 outfit two years ago, running the club as a stable business, after original owner and founder Phil Davies decided to relinquish control and at the start of this month, WRL put a release out to seek new owners to take the club forward.

So far, Juliff says that there have been six interested parties, two formal applications and others interested in getting involved in a potential consortium.

"All of this interest is very promising," said Juliff, who played at the highest level of Rugby League for Wigan, Halifax, Castleford, Wakefield and Wales.

"I do believe that to take the Scorpions forward, we need to spend up to the salary cap and for that, we need someone to come in who is prepared to invest in the club, be it with their own money or through sponsorship.

"It's very encouraging that there are six people and I do see potential in what has been received so far. It'll be good to have a big decision to make.

"It could be that we have one person take over the club or there is a potential for a consortium like has happened with North Wales Crusaders. It's fantastic to see all this interest in rugby league in Wales."

Juliff, now London-based, played for Pontypridd, Newport and his home town Mountain Ash before turning professional.

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COUNTING DOWN TO THE 2015 RUGBY WORLD CUP

The Dragon starts to sharpen its talons

Forget 'friendly World Cup warm-up' stand by for a typical Celtic dust-up!

by **Don John**

BEFORE the first Rugby World Cup 'warm-up' against Ireland at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium three weeks ago, this column noted that while a win is always the primary objective in any sport, the result on that occasion was likely less important to the Welsh camp than exposing young players in an experimental line-up to test the strength in depth.

The answer came in brutal fashion with the 35-21 mauling of the miscellany of debutants, relative international novices and fringe players – who were swept away by a green tide of far more experienced and street-wise Irish second-stringers with a different set of priorities.

Last year's Six Nations champions, currently number two in the world, are plainly focused on extending a morale-boosting, match-winning run in the countdown to RWC 2015 to maintain momentum for next month's tournament.

Wales' dire display, and in particular, the front five's first-half failure to establish the secure platform up front on which all else depends, sounded an ominous warning that, despite a modest improvement following a flurry of substitutions in the second half, worrying problems persist at the coalface with just weeks remaining to the big kick-off.

All who wish Wales well have their fingers – and toes – crossed that these will be remedied with the (hopeful) return of tight head Samson Lee from injury and the as yet untried Tomas Francis, to perform the vital task of anchoring the pack fulfilled so ably and for so long by Adam Jones.

What a shame that this great warrior's glittering international career has ended in bitter controversy with the ill-timed publication of an autobiography charting his axing from the national squad.

No doubt there are issues on both sides and it is difficult for those on the outside to have an informed opinion on the exact sequence of events.

Whatever the rights and wrongs, it's a sensitive time all round when a truly great player's international career begins to draw to a close.

In Jones's case, when that clearly emotional moment came, it does seem a pity if he was not at least considered for a specialist mentoring role within the squad, to lessen the blow and keep him on board, particularly in view of the dearth of comparable Welsh props – as the current crisis vividly demonstrates.

Instead, that role will now be performed over the border for his new employers, English club Harlequins, whose young props will reap the benefit of his priceless knowledge of the 'dark arts' when he joins up with them this season.

Meanwhile, the focus is now on the return clash with Ireland in Dublin on Saturday and, after the previous outcome, there is no way that either side will approach this one as another 'friendly' warm-up with the Rugby World Cup so near.

Indeed, it's far more likely to fit the more familiar pattern of lively 'dust-ups' as both camps look to gain a psychological edge.

The Irish, in front of an expectant crowd, were widely expected to field something like their strongest side and ram home their advantage.

Warren Gatland was also expected to bring his big guns to bear and show that the Cardiff result was merely a planned 'one-off' experiment with little or no relevance to the much bigger World Cup battles that lie ahead, when the real hostilities start in earnest next month.

Prop Tomas Francis faces his sternest test on Saturday as he strives to solve the Welsh camp's tight-head crisis.

He will not risk a second humiliation.

However, Irish head coach Joe Schmidt will no doubt again issue instructions to his men to target the perceived vulnerability of the Welsh front row.

...And he won't be the only one interested in the outcome – Wales' four Group A rivals will also be keeping a keen eye on things.

It all amounts to huge pressure on the young shoulders of new cap Tomas Francis and everyone (at least those wearing red) will be hoping to see a second Adam Jones in the making!

ABERTILLERY TEST TOO MUCH FOR SEAWEEDS

FOLLOWING the win against Risca the previous week, this match against Abertillery promised to be a tougher test for Porthcawl RFC and so it proved to be.

That said, the final score of 33-12 in Abertillery's favour does not adequately reflect the part that Porthcawl played in what was a very entertaining match.

The visitors are on their way back following some tough years recently, after the heady days of the 1970s and 1980s in the Merit Table, and they possessed a skilful and disciplined set of forwards; yet it was their experienced backline that proved to be the difference between the sides.

Living off home mistakes and the bounce of the ball in the first half, Abertillery raced into a deserved halftime 21 point lead without reply, yet the Porthcawl eight stood toe-to toe with their opponents, with Nick Nutman and Jac Williams particularly putting in a good shift.

In the second spell, when a Porthcawl attack broke down in midfield as they pressed hard for an opening near halfway, the visitors were quick to punish the error as they grabbed possession to notch a fourth try, unconverted, and at 26-0 it looked like a heavy day for the Seaweeds.

However, the resolve of the younger and less experienced home outfit got some reward as wing Lloyd Rosser-Stanford capped a determined display with a fine try for 5-26, only to see the 'Tillery put the match safe with a final converted try at 5-33.

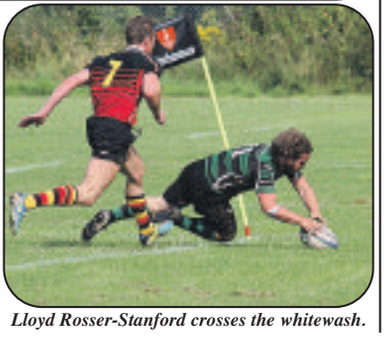
Porthcawl's effort throughout didn't reflect in the scoreline, and when Gareth Rees scampered over for his second try in successive weeks, Josh White converting, a greater respectability was brought to the score of 12-33 at the end.

Coach Rhys James, while disappointed with the result, will not be overly concerned as his side battled throughout against a much more experienced outfit, with some heroic defence and a willingness to play attractive rugby whenever possible.

There is a good feeling in the camp and a willingness to play for each other, and this will stand the Seaweeds in good stead for the league campaign to come.

PF

Nick Nutman with the ball, Rob Howe and James Davies in support. PICTURES BY TRACEY WILLIAMS.



Lloyd Rosser-Stanford crosses the whitewash.

Porthcawl Bridge Club results

THE latest results from the Porthcawl Bridge Club are:

Saturday August 8: First, Trish Saunders and Pat Haworth; second, Janet Richards and Tony Haworth.

Thursday, August 13: First, Keith Davison and Tony Haworth; handicap, Connie Dick and Roger Draper.

Saturday, August 15: First, Trish Saunders and Janet Richards; second, Dil and Marian Evans.

Monday, August 17: First, Gary Williams and Tony Haworth; second, Peter and Sandie Jenkins.

Thursday, August 20: First, Keith Davison and Tony Haworth; handicap, Peter Bennett and Janet Richards.

The club meets three times a week: Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel 7pm – 10.15pm. Visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call secretary Trish on 01656 785794.

TH

Bridgend Bridge Club

THE results for recent events are:

Wednesday, August 19: 1st Tony Ratcliff and Julian Pottage, 2nd Peter Bugden and Geoff Barnes, & Kevin Maddox and Mike Best, 3rd Jane Brook and John Henson. Winners on handicap Peter Bugden and Geoff Barnes.

Thursday, August 20: 1st Mike Williams and John Henson, 2nd Frances Heslin and Dee Finch, 3rd Colin Lewis and Stuart Davies. Winners on handicap Frances Heslin and Dee Finch.

Friday, August 21: 1st Irene Thomas and Terry Dolan, 2nd John Beard and Deb Davies, 3rd Liam Sheridan and Debbie Lea. Winners on handicap Irene Thomas and Terry Dolan.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to commence at 7pm so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session. Master points are now awarded but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

New lessons for beginners will recommence in September 2015 - further information can be obtained by calling Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

TG

PLAYERS WANTED

BRIDGEND Town Football club have started youth training ready for the new season in the South Wales Youth League and are looking for new players.

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